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Issue No 59

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ADD NAME TO CINEMA CAMPAIGN

SATURDAY shoppers in Deal are being urged to support the campaign to bring a cinema back to the town.

The Deal Films group behind a move to convert the former Regent cinema and bingo hall on the seafront into a community cinema will be asking people to sign a petition aimed at providing a movie house in the town.

Members say the 4,500 signatures gained in an attempt to save Flicks cinema before it shut in November 2007 indicate the level of support.

They have been collecting signatures in the town centre and have

■ BY NICK AMES

been encouraged by the response. New MP Charlie Elphicke is in favour of the bid, as is new town mayor Ben Bano.

Mr Elphicke said: "I support a cinema for Deal and will be making the case to the district council."

The Deal Today website features Allan Thomsett, formerly the manager of Flicks. He said the group had been working on the scheme for two years.

It has gained the support of 48 local firms and submitted a business plan

to Dover District Council, which owns the building.

Mr Thomsett said: "The Regent gives us space for two 140-seat cinemas and a third screen for community use, a bar, lounge area and internet café."

"We have years of experience and a passion for the cinema. We want to cater for the needs of all Deal people."

As well as screening a range of films including the latest blockbusters, classic movies, European films and Bollywood epics, the group anticipates live video link-ups for concerts and sports events.

It is also hoped to attract school bookings and some private users.



Picture LIZ MOTT

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THE REAL DEAL

The Regent - seen here in one of photographer Liz Mott's sepia shots of Deal people and landmarks - would be the ideal venue for a community cinema in the town, says the Deal Films group, which will be collecting more signatures for its petition in the high street on Saturday.

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your lifestyle

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Labour group's new look after the Bano years

■ BY NICK AMES

MAJOR changes have been announced at the top of the Labour group on Dover District Council.

Ben Bano is stepping down as leader, following his election as Mayor of Deal.

Gordon Cowan has been elected as leader and Mike Eddy will take on the post of deputy leader.

Cllr Bano said: "It's been a privilege to have been leader of the Labour group over the last three years and we have provided a focused and constructive opposition.

"But I want to devote my energies to making sure I serve the people of Deal in the best possible way."

"I would like to extend my best wishes to Gordon on his appointment as leader."

The new leader said he was proud to take on the role but emphasised that the next 12 months would be a difficult period.

Cllr Cowan said: "I would like to thank Ben for the commitment he has shown as leader."

"The coming year will be tough. We will fight hard to protect and champion the interests of the people of the district in the face of Conservative cuts in services and I look forward to leading Labour in that fight."

The authority faces major challenges over the next year, many of which were highlighted during the recent general election campaign.



CHANGES: Mike Eddy, above, will be new Labour leader Gordon Cowan's deputy after Ben Bano, inset, became Mayor of Deal

Chief among these is the proposed sale of the Port of Dover, which came to the fore under the recently-ousted Labour government.

Local parties across the political spectrum have indicated that they are opposed to any sell-off.

Other important issues locally are the exact details of the new hospital, traffic congestion, the future of UK Border Agency front-line staff threatened with cutbacks and new housing developments.

St John takes wheel of new ambulance

A NEW ambulance has been delivered to St John Ambulance in Dover.

The vehicle comes with the full range of equipment needed to cover every first aid eventuality.

A second ambulance has also been made available to Sittingbourne.

Steve Walker, assistant county commissioner for St John Ambulance Kent, said: "The benefits these new vehicles provide are huge.

"We are now able to retire some of our older vehicles and can continue to provide an efficient service, whatever the weather."

St John Ambulance has 25 divisional headquarters and eight training centres across the county, with a membership of more than 1,000.

Camera club winners

DOVER Gateway Camera Club has announced the results of its latest competition, highlighting the quality of members' work.

The group hosts frequent competitions, each with a different theme and focusing on a specific aspect of the photographers' art.

A spokesman said: "The club held a small print competition on the theme of portrait.

"It was judged by secretary Mike Hall and the standard was very high, with images ranging from classic studio poses to celebrities and animals.

"High scorers were Vicky Hendrick with 19 points, for two portraits; and Gary Stamp, scoring 18 points, for two images."

Buckland mill reunion

DOVER Arts Development is organising a reunion party for former Wiggins Teape and Arjo Wiggins employees who worked at Buckland paper mill.

The reunion, planned for Friday July 23, will be part of a new documentary film about the mill. DAD is hoping to contact as many former employees as possible.

A spokesman said: "If you worked at the mill, please get in contact via email info@dodonline.eu; or leave a message at 07512 309747 and the team will get back to you."

New government 'will still sell port'

BOSSES at the Port of Dover say they are convinced the new Lib-Con government will still push ahead with the sell-off.

Speaking at a public meeting, port chief executive Bob Goldfield said: "This government is on the same track as the previous one."

"The politicians may have changed but the people giving the advice have not."

He added that he was convinced the new government would be just as keen as the previous administration to see receipts from the sale of the port go into the treasury's coffers.

Dr Goldfield went on to say that the only way to obtain any kind of pri-

vate investment was for the port to come out of public hands.

As well as outlining details for a new ferry terminal which would take two years to build but could be in place as early as 2016, the public meeting also heard that the port wished to knock down some of the old architecture along the seafront in order to provide a 300-vehicle berth.

This would accommodate lorries in the event of cross-Channel delays.

Port authorities also said work would commence next month on removing a sunken Second World War anti-submarine block ship, which impedes entry to the Eastern Docks.

Second ship added on Boulogne route

FERRY operator LD Lines has announced it is adding a second ship to its Dover-Boulogne service from this weekend.

The current eight sailings a day will increase to up to 14 with the introduction of the newly-named vessel Norman Trader, which will work in tandem with existing sister ship Norman Bridge.

Both ships can carry up to 400 passengers, have 2,000 metres of vehicle deck space and can hold up to 130 cars and 40 trucks, with adjustable combinations of freight and tourist traffic.

Both ships' on-board facilities include a self-service restaurant, lounge bar and TV lounge - with reclining seats - and shops which sell drinks,

tobacco, perfumes, gifts, books and newspapers.

The new schedule will see ferries leaving Dover to Boulogne at 5am, 7am, 11am, 1pm, 5.15pm, 7pm with the last at 11.30pm.

For the return route the sailing times are at 5am, 9am, 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 9.15pm and 11.15pm (all local time).

LD Lines is the only cross-channel operator which runs between Dover and Boulogne, which now sails into the Port of Boulogne's new Hub Port terminal.

The new LD Lines Dover-Boulogne sailings launch offer starts from £29 single for a car and up to nine passengers. For more information and to book, go to www.ldlines.com or call 0844 576 8836.

■ BY IAN READ

A FORMER prison warden from Deal has been jailed for her part in a conspiracy to smuggle heroin and mobile phones into a jail.

Carly Morris, 24, of Queen's Rise, Ringwould, was sentenced to five years at Maidstone Crown Court after admitting conspiracy to supply and possession of drugs with intent to supply.

She had received heroin and mobile phones from drug-dealer Dino Gillett in the car park of Canterbury Crown Court.

Serco warden Morris, who had been working in the court cells, was picked up with drugs and a mobile phone. She had already been under suspicion after drugs and a phone were found during a search of Elmley prison on the Isle of Sheppey in March last year.

The conspiracy was orchestrated by convicted killer Darren Byrne, who used a smuggled phone to order drugs from pusher Gillett. He also texted Morris to ensure deliveries arrived.

An earlier transfer in the plot had been unearthed when remand prisoner Jack Hennessy, 23, had been identified as a phone-and-drugs 'mule', smuggling items hidden in his rectum into Elmley.

Robert Acheson, prosecuting, told the court Hennessy had been found with a concealed mobile phone and charger, a plastic knife and an ounce of heroin in a bag.

The phone smuggled in by Hennessy, who said he was paid £200 to smuggle drugs and phones into the jail, was shaped like a watch.

Only one had been sold in the whole of Kent and it was traced to Gillett, who had bought it.

Subsequent searches at Elmley located a Nokia mobile phone encased in a sock hidden in the back of a TV set.

Checks on the phone revealed Byrne's link with Morris.

During a raid on Byrne's cell, officers found a piece of paper with bank details and traced it back to Gillett. He reckoned the drugs smuggled into Elmley were worth £17,000, but the court heard their worth was magnified because they could be used to influence prisoners and subvert prison officers.

When Morris was trapped, officers found heroin and lubricant concealed in the lining of

Warder jailed for role in smuggling drugs into jail

CAUGHT OUT:

From left, Dino Gillett, Carly Morris and Jack Hennessy were all involved in obtaining and smuggling mobile phones and drugs for Darren Byrne, far right, who was serving a 42-month sentence in Elmley prison on the Isle of Sheppey



her handbag, while sim cards in a heat-sealed bag were also found.

Packets of heroin were later found in her underwear drawer at home, plus cocaine, another mobile phone, four sim cards and leads.

She told detectives she was to meet a man in a black BMW who would be arriving at court. This man was Gillett – who was himself attending a confiscation hearing – and he was arrested shortly afterwards.

Intimidation

In a text to Morris, Byrne had said: "You're a star and I would give you a big kiss. Will let you know the name of the fella. Thanks mate, you are one in a million."

Morris admitted conspiracy to smuggle drugs into the prison and possessing drugs and mobile phones with intent to supply.

Mr Acheson said she had volunteered to do cell duty at the court.

She had done nothing to arouse suspicion

and reported an approach in November 2008.

Aran Rollin, defending, told the court Morris had got involved with the plot because her family had been subject to harassment and intimidation.

Morris said Gillett had threatened to kill her and her parents if she did not cooperate with the smuggling scheme.

She had reported 16 incidents to police, but nothing was done.

Because of the threats, Serco bosses told her to change her uniform and make herself less obvious before going home.

Mr Rollin said: "She was drawn into a breach of her position of trust by naivety and gross stupidity. When Byrne persuaded her to smuggle the drugs in, the harassment eased off.

"It was clear the situation she found herself in was horrific. Her father had been attacked and when Byrne promised to help, the attacks were alleviated. She was fertile ground for such a conspiracy. She attempted to do the

right thing, but no support was forthcoming."

Judge Jeremy Gold sentenced Morris to five years in prison.

He said: "It is a tragedy that you are before the court. You abused your position of trust. Your family was subject to harassment and to stop that harassment you joined this conspiracy."

Minority

Byrne and Gillett were each given eight years, while Hennessy was jailed for four years. All admitted the charges.

At the time of the plot, Byrne was serving 42 months for causing death by dangerous driving. He had a string of convictions including one for robbery.

Judge Gold said a minority of prisoners used drugs and mobile phones as a way of exerting influence and power over others.

He said Morris's sentence would deter other escort officers from abusing trust because they now knew what the outcome would be.

Re-elected mayor promises to carry on the good work

SUE JONES has been given a second term of office as Mayor of Dover after an evening of pageantry at the town hall on Friday.

With her mace-bearer – officially the Town Sergeant – she left the main hall with deputy David Hammond to the strains of an organist playing There'll Always Be An England.

Upon re-election, Cllr Jones immediately pledged to continue working for the town and said how much she had enjoyed her previous year in the post.

"I have relished the daily engagements," she told civic dignitaries, councillors and members of the public who sat in the historic building.

"I have particularly enjoyed meeting young people and seeing what they are doing. They are an encouraging sign for the future."

Cllr Jones also said how much she had enjoyed taking the lead in the Cinque Ports confederation and spoke of her pride in Dover's war memorial.

Challenges that she said she faced included further regeneration of the town and the proposed sell-off of the Port of Dover.

Cllr Jones also vowed to continue



SECOND TERM: Mayor of Dover Sue Jones with an allotment scheme for the town which was proving very popular and to push ahead with plans for improved sporting facilities in the Western Heights area.

"I intend to protect Dover's civic history," she said.

Newly-elected Mayor of Deal Ben Bano was one of the guests at the ceremony.

"It's an important event in the town's calendar," he said.

The Mayor of Dover is one of the most ancient positions in the entire history of England.

In the recent past the announcement of the new mayor in the town hall has been greeted by trumpeters.

This year's event was on a more modest scale but still featured councillors in ceremonial regalia and the mace-bearer dressed in traditional costume.

The earliest recorded mayor is William Fitzgodfrey, who took over the position in 1086.

Dated London 1676, the mace is carried on all ceremonial and civic occasions and precedes the mayor.

It weighs more than three kilograms and was manufactured in memory of the landing of King Charles II in Dover in 1660 when he restored the monarchy to England.

Traditionally, Cllr Jones is always addressed as 'Mr Mayor' despite the fact that she is a woman. This stems from 1960 when Dover had its first female mayor but never changed the mode of address.



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NEW ATTRACTION: It is hoped weekly market in Dover will help encourage more people to visit the town centre

New market to boost economy in town centre

A NEW market that aims to give Dover a focal point and act as a reason for holidaymakers to visit the town centre opens for business on Saturday.

It will be held on the same day each week and should appeal to cruise-ship passengers, daytrippers, visitors and local people.

One highlight will be a roast pig that will cook throughout the day of the market, which could also give the town an economic boost by bringing visitors to nearby stores, cafés, restaurants and pubs.

Cameron Macsween, president of Dover Chamber of Commerce and head of business development, is optimistic about the scheme. "We want to make the weekly market a focal point for the town – appealing to visitors and locals alike," he said.

"We really hope it will add something to the town and so bring in more people."

"Locals who might go off to do their shopping in a town which has a market will be encouraged not to travel and instead to see what Dover has to offer."

"We want to get ferry passengers and cruise-ship visitors into the centre. It is

■ BY NICK AMES

sometimes thought that holidaymakers from the large ships just get on a coach and go somewhere else, but that is not always the case.

"Likewise, the castle is one of the most important visitor sites in Britain. This market is intended to bring as many of those visitors as possible into the town – so that they spend time in local amenities and everyone benefits."

The market – held appropriately in Market Square – will also be a magnet for local craftsmen and women and artists to show off their wares and talents.

Jewellery designers and artists have already been contacted and interest has been shown by chocolate-makers and manufacturers of soaps and candles.

Mr Macsween said: "These may be people who do not have the resources or the time to open a store but still wish to get the chance to sell their products."

"It is also an opportunity for people who have come to the town from the cruise-liners to see what is made locally and take away a souvenir."

DVD to help raise funds to keep exotic park open

A GARDEN park that is home to stunning flowers and wildlife hopes to raise funds to keep going thanks to a DVD designed to raise its profile.

Sandling Park, near Hythe, is open to the public throughout May and is known for its rhododendrons and azaleas, as well as attracting various species of butterfly.

Film-maker and supporter Kerry King, who produced the DVD, said he hoped the project would turn around its fortunes.

The estate has been the home of the Hardy family since 1897, when it was bought by Lawrence Hardy MP, and is now run by his great-granddaughter Jane.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Debris spoils fishing trip

DOVER'S lifeboat volunteers were called out last week when a small angling boat was left stranded after its gearbox was damaged when the craft hit a submerged piece of wood. City of London II, with coxswain Stuart Richardson at the helm, headed out to the stricken craft, which was taken under tow and brought into Dover marina, where it was lifted for repair.

RNLI coxswain Stuart Richardson said: "This was a really unfortunate accident, on a nice spring day, which spoilt a day's fishing for the two men.

"It is impossible to see and avoid what is below the surface and does not need to be large to damage a small vessel.

"The skipper did everything correctly in informing the Coastguard of the problem and allowing them to pursue the best option to get the men to safety."

New visitor chief at castle

ENGLISH Heritage has appointed Deborah Newman as the new head of visitor operations at Dover Castle.

Her role is to ensure visitors are able to continue to enjoy all the castle has to offer. This includes overseeing a large number of events this year.

Ms Newman has experience in commercial operations management, having previously been responsible for operations and projects at Edinburgh Castle and the London Eye.

She said: "I'm looking forward to ensuring Dover Castle is operated and recognised as a world-class visitor attraction."

Grave plans on exhibition

AN EXHIBITION on cemetery provision in Dover and proposals for a preferred new site in the Elms Vale area will also be on display at the council office in Whitfield and available to view on a website at www.dover.gov.uk.

The public exhibition is being held as part of work to plan for the future development of the district.

It will outline the range of issues involved, and a number of alternative sites that have been investigated, and will present details of the preferred site in the Elms Vale area, on agricultural land next to the Harbour School.

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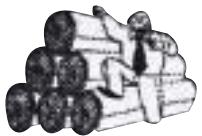
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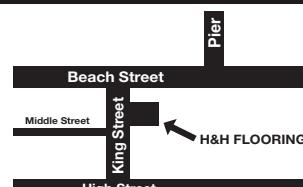


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Swing into the 40s at wartime event

AN EVENT celebrating Dover's role in the Second World War will be held in Pencester Gardens from June 12-13.

Starting at 10am until gone 4pm both days, the Hellfire Corner commemoration will feature a programme of 1940s-style entertainment, including the Swingtime Sweethearts and the Clover Sisters.

There will be a range of 1940s civilian and military displays and Armed Forces charities will be making collections.

On Saturday there will be a 1940s dance at St Mary's Parish Hall. Advance tickets £8 or £10 on the door. It is an American Supper-style evening, so visitors can bring their own food and drink.

Dress code is 1940s civilian or Allied uniforms.

Pupils blessed by beating boundaries

PUPILS at Dover College have been taking part in an ancient tradition thought to bring good luck.

This month is the historical yearly anniversary of Rogationtide, where churches would beat the boundaries of their parishes, to identify the boundaries and ask for a blessing for their crops.

The tradition also resolved boundary issues, leading to the tradition of seeking reconciliation in personal relationships.

Dover College's infant and junior pupils celebrated this event with their very own beating of the bounds.

A school spokesman said: "The children marked the boundaries by hitting landmarks around the school with sticks and asking for a blessing on the pupils."

Get the Dunkirk Spirit at 70-year celebration

■ BY NICK AMES

SEVENTY years on from the Dunkirk evacuation, English Heritage is hosting a weekend of activities from Saturday, May 29, until Bank Holiday Monday at Dover Castle – the nerve-centre of the rescue operation – to mark one of the most dangerous operations of the Second World War.

The vital evacuation of thousands of Allied soldiers from under the claws of the invading Nazis has passed into wartime legend.

But at the time it was a desperate gamble in a period when Britain feared an invasion as France fell to the blitzkrieg assault.

On May 26, 1940, in the cramped labyrinth of secret tunnels deep below Dover Castle, Vice Admiral Bertram Home Ramsay and his naval staff worked around the clock to plan and implement the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and Allied troops trapped at Dunkirk and under fierce attack by the German Armed Forces.

Over the next nine days, some 338,000 stranded soldiers were rescued in what became known as the "Miracle of Dunkirk".

Directed from the Secret Wartime Tunnels at



TIME FOR TEA: Wartime personnel at the WVS tea wagon

Dover Castle, this operation, code-named Dynamo, was to prove a vital event in the Second World War, triggering a response of public sympathy for the rescued battle-weary troops and a national resolve to pull together in the face of the enemy. The "Dunkirk Spirit" was born.

Over the May Bank Holiday weekend the castle will be occupied by military and civilian wartime personnel as they re-create the tension and frenzy of activity experienced by those involved in directing Operation Dynamo in May 1940.

Highlights during the weekend include naval personnel keeping watch from Admiralty Lookout with binoculars and telescopes trained on the Channel and harbour below.

Officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force

will be holding a vital planning meeting within the Secret Wartime Tunnels where Vice-Admiral Bertram Ramsay led his staff.

Real-time information boards will be erected with breaking news of events as they would have unfolded over those three days during the mission, including live updates on the location of the little ships and casualty numbers.

Military police will be on sentry duty operating stop and search, while an anti-aircraft gun crew sandbag their positions and dispatch riders roar off with vital messages.

Surgeons and staff from the Royal Army Medical Corps will be inspecting the British Expedition Forces, while the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Services tend troops.

During the weekend, children will have the opportunity to create paper replicas of each of the 700 little ships, which will go on display in Ramsay's casemate from June 4, marking the final day of Operation Dynamo.

Each replica will be a poignant tribute by today's young generation to the crews who bravely set sail for Dunkirk at great risk to themselves to rescue the troops.

The Operation Dynamo activities will be staged at or close to the Secret Wartime Tunnels, but visitors can see other aspects of wartime life staged around the castle.

They include Home Guard displays, including Russian, German and British living history encampments and RAF displays.

Gift Shop Now Open!

THE Secret Gardens OF SANDWICH

Neglected for 25 years, an extensive restoration programme has now returned the Gardens to their former glory. Some original features have been revived, whilst contemporary and traditional planting styles mix harmoniously to create a garden that has evolved with modernity and yet still captures the spirit of its heritage.

After a stroll in the Gardens visit the fully licensed Tea Room for a reviving cup of tea and a slice of home made cake, or linger longer for a spot of lunch and a glass of wine.

Our newly opened Salutation Gift Shop stock what we believe to be some of the finest products available today, combining the highest quality with great value. Our head buyer has scoured the market and has tracked down a range of truly magnificent gifts at a variety of different prices. Admission to the garden is not necessary.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JOHN SIMS



Q & A

The Creative Quarter sculptor and painter speaks to **James Alexandre** about his memories of Folkestone, the new arts-and-crafts market, his dislike of conceptual art and growing a Jimi Hendrix-like hair-style

Q Tell us something about yourself

A I am 57 years old, married, with three grown-up children. I have a live/work studio space in Tontine Street, part of Folkestone's Creative Quarter. I worked for 30-odd years as an illustrator and graphic designer in London, the Middle East and Kent. In 2000 I discovered stone-carving. In 2002 I returned to college to study fine art and in 2007 did a post-graduate diploma in fine art in Cyprus. During 2008/09 I was a tutor on the same course but damaged my spine carving a large tree-trunk and had to return to the UK. I now work mostly in stone and draw in oil pastel. You can see my work at the Chimaera Gallery in Tontine Street, the Cristus Gallery in Sandgate and stone-carvings in Outside The Square Gallery in Margate. Or check out www.johnsims.yolasite.com. You can contact me through the site for a studio visit.

Q What first interested you in art?

A As a child, I enjoyed drawing the animals and birds I saw in the countryside around Canterbury. I was fairly good at art at school and was encouraged by my art teacher to go to art college. I think they thought I was too thick to do anything else! A careers adviser visited the school and told most of the boys they had two options – agriculture or a car mechanic. I didn't fancy either of these, so I plumped for art college to study graphic design and illustration.

Q What is your connection to Folkestone?

A I went to the Folkestone School of Art. I turned up at the beginning of my first year full of trepidation, not really knowing what graphic design was! I loved the course, the girls and Folkestone. I grew my hair, Jimi Hendrix-style, and dressed kind of funny – my father wouldn't walk next to me. I fondly remember the late-night parties in the Warren, skinny-dipping and sunbathing, falling in love for the first time, my life-drawing class and art films at The Metropole. And now I'm back here again.

Q What do you think of the area's arts-based regeneration?

A I believe in it, but it will take a long time and a lot of faith and money. We need to still convince some locals and attract visitors to the area to look at and buy art and crafts. Come and support us at the new arts-and-crafts markets in the harbour. The next one is on Sunday, June 6. Anyone who has friends in the South East or London should invite them down for a day by the seaside and check out the Creative Quarter.

Q Which is your favourite type of artwork and why?

A It changes – the more you learn about art, the broader your 'favourites' become. The people I liked when I was an illustrator are very different to those I like now. I'm drawn equally now to sculpture, painting and drawing. I love

sculpture from ancient Greece and Egypt. Then Giotto, Piero della Francesca to Michelangelo. Then later, Poussin and Rubens on to Brancusi, Matisse, Picasso and Giacometti. Probably easier to say what I don't like – Warhol, Koons and the YBA mob. I'm an old fogey when it comes to art. I hate most conceptual art. It saddens me that it will be almost a given that the artists chosen for the next Folkestone Triennial will be, like the first one, 'conceptual' or 'easy art', as I prefer to call it. Though I do like the beach huts '18 Holes' by Richard Wilson – they make me smile whenever I walk past them.

Q Is there a particular piece of art that inspires you?

A Oh so many, but I'll choose just one for now. 'French Window at Collioure, 1914' by Matisse. It's one of the most understated yet powerful anti-war paintings ever made.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time outside of art?

A Listening to cricket, football and music on the radio. I love walking in the country, but my legs don't work very well any more following the spine trouble.

Q Tell us something not many people know about you

A I am really rather shy. I've just learnt to hide it.

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Help young birds to survive this season

ADVICE on how best to protect newborn birds during the breeding season has come from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The charity says these are tough times for baby birds as they rely on others for food and shelter and with predators waiting for their chance to pounce.

They are particularly vulnerable to predators like cats at this time of year, but the RSPB says the two can live harmoniously in our gardens if people take just a few simple measures.

Spokeswoman Sophie McCallum said: "People are often surprised that the RSPB is supportive of owning cats and firmly believes that cats and garden birds can exist side by side comfortably with a bit of sensible pet-ownership and taking a few simple measures."

Vulnerable

The wildlife charity is keen to provide cat-owners with information on what they can do to avoid chicks being caught and suggests putting a bell on the cat's collar.

An RSPB study shows that this can reduce predation of birds by 41 per cent.

Other advice includes making sure cats are well fed and cared for and keeping them in around sunset and sunrise and after bad weather – birds are most vulnerable at these times as it's when they are most likely to come out to feed.

Also the charity suggests avoiding putting food on the ground for a few weeks where cats are known to catch birds.

Ms McCallum said: "It is very upsetting if you discover the remains of a bird that has been eaten by a cat, so by fitting a bell, keeping them indoors for the most risky times of day and raising your feeding stations, you could avoid distress for all."

Iconic scenery is conservation lottery winner

MORE than £1.5 million has been earmarked to help protect the iconic White Cliffs landscape.

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

ing plans for the White Cliffs of Dover, particularly in this International Year of Biodiversity.

"We look forward to seeing the project progress over the next year or so."

Dover council's cabinet member for the environment, Nicholas Kenton, said: "This is great news and it is a wonderful opportunity."

"This is a great chance for a range of partners to further support the conservation of our unique landscape and heritage, and to continue to work together to help preserve these amazing chalk downlands for future generations."

The total amount also includes £57,700 development funding to help those involved in the project work towards full approval of the plans.

There are two rounds to go through, during which the partners present a further, more detailed, application to ensure the full award is received.

Those in the scheme that bid for the funding are Dover and Shepway councils, Kent County Council, Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, White Cliffs Countryside



ICONIC CLIFFS: Lottery money will help protect flora and fauna on chalkland around the White Cliffs of Dover

Partnership, the National Trust, Kent Wildlife Trust and Eurotunnel.

The Landscape Partnership programme is run by the Heritage Lottery Fund and gives out grants ranging from £250,000 to £2 million.

It was set up to help conserve areas of distinctive landscape character and which provide long-term economic and environmental benefits.

For more information on the project, go to the HLF website at www.hlf.org.uk.



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THE night of the first leaders' debate in Manchester was just about the most surreal of my life.

The debate itself took place in Granada Studios, a few hundred yards down the road from the plush surroundings of the Hilton Hotel – home to 'Spin Alley' – which is where I spent the evening.

This was a vast, high-ceilinged, wood-panelled chamber with a huge cinema screen at one end, in front of two dozen rows of desks where the hundred-odd hacks from national and international newspapers and broadcasters tapped away ferociously at their laptops.

At the back of the room, scaffolding was set up for the BBC, ITV and Sky News to broadcast from, and space for the reporters to hobnob with politicians and spin doctors while TV and radio producers scuttled around.

I was there as part of the Lib Dem team, my main task being to negotiate my way round the room with the now Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne, mingling with the journos, making sure he was in the right place for the Newsnight, Skys and 5 Lives, and discussing the night's star turn by Nick Clegg.

We watched the debate on a flat-screen TV in our private green room behind the main chamber, alongside Paddy Ashdown, Vince Cable, Danny Alexander and colleagues from the press office, chewing tiny egg and cress sandwiches and processed ham wraps.

Applause

To be honest, it was hard to keep any real sense of perspective as the debate went on.

There was much pacing around and whispering in ears, as well as the odd cheer and applause when Nick came out with a great line or a well-made argument.

As it went on, we all had the sense that Nick was doing well – we were watching the ITV 'worm', the online polls and the reaction on Twitter – but what did people watching at home think?

Nick, despite all the plaudits that came his way following his performance, started with a huge disadvantage. The Liberal Democrats, to put it bluntly, didn't have the luxury of being able to import expensive advisers from the Obama campaign, or any other, as Labour and the Tories did.

Nick's preparation, in which I played only a minor part, was carried out very much in-house and from scratch.

But it seemed to work. As the debate drew to a close, we prepared to head back to Spin Alley to put our side of events across to the journalists and broadcasters in the hope it would be reflected in the instant coverage and the following morning's papers.

The room, which had been crowded, but relatively quiet before the debate, was now a full-blown media circus.

Everywhere you looked there were secretaries of state, Alastair Campbells and Charlie Whelans, George Osbornes and William Hague, surrounded by crowds half-a-dozen deep of cameramen and hacks scribbling away in shorthand and shouting their questions.

We were surrounded as we entered and it was clear from the first questions that people

History was being made before my Lib Dem eyes



Two years ago, reporter PHIL REILLY left KOS Media for his dream job – to be a press officer at Liberal Democrat Party HQ. A passionate supporter of the party, even he did not foresee the general election would produce a cabinet with five Lib Dem members. Here, he gives an exclusive behind-the-scenes account of the first televised leaders' debate that started the bandwagon which ended with Nick Clegg named as Deputy Prime Minister

LEADING MAN:
Nick Clegg, left,
speaks during
the first TV
debate in
Manchester



had seen the debate the same way we had. Nick Clegg had won, and won convincingly.

This was reinforced as the first instant polls flooded in, which spread through the room in a mass game of Chinese whispers.

All of a sudden Peter Mandelson wafted into the room.

I was several feet away with my back to him, but I noticed all the journalists in my peripheral vision scurrying in the same direction. A huge huddle enveloped him – all camera lenses, raised hands and shrieked fragments of questions.

For a few minutes he held them all rapt as he repeated his pre-prepared line – that Nick had won on style, but Brown on substance – and then he wafted away again as quickly as

he had arrived.

As the mêlée continued I found myself barged by Cabinet ministers, glared at by opposition spin doctors, gossiping with BBC correspondents and shooting the breeze with Theresa May's aide as we waited for our charges to finish debating on Newsnight.

Soon enough the print journalists wrapped up, their copy filed, and headed, presumably, for the hotels and bars of central Manchester.

The broadcasters continued their work for another hour or two, but slowly the number of people milling around behind them dwindled and everyone went their separate ways.

It was all quite a lot to take in.

For two years leading up to this point, my job had been to fight for every scrap of coverage

possible for the Lib Dems in newspapers and on television.

The media is used to seeing everything as a tug-of-war between Labour and the Tories, especially with the prospect of a close election and a change of government looming, so airtime and column inches were hard to come by.

In an hour and a half of primetime television all that changed, and as the evening progressed that fact slowly dawned on me.

As we packed away our laptops in the green room afterwards Paddy Ashdown came in to congratulate us all.

But he also sounded a note of caution, warning us that Nick's success would make him a target as never before.

Despite this, my press office colleagues and I stumbled our way back to the nearby Premier Inn at around midnight, excitedly trying to read the next day's front pages on BlackBerrys and iPhones.

Headlines

What happened in the days and weeks that followed – 'Cleggmania', the bizarre 'Clegg in Nazi Slur on Britain' headlines, the two debates, the press conferences, the round-the-clock campaigning, the journalists and photographers camped outside the office, election night and the disappointment that the surge subsided as people's pencils hovered over the ballot papers, the 'big, open and comprehensive offer', the days and nights of negotiations with the Conservatives and Labour, the coalition agreement, the announcement of Cabinet posts and the special conference – all passed so quickly that now it all seems one long blur.

I've barely had a full night's sleep since the campaign began, so it's hard to take stock of it all right now.

It has been the most full-on, exhilarating and exhausting experience of my life. Now, of course, comes the governing.

I don't suppose it's going to get much easier.

Working towards changing young lives

IT WAS a day many young people with learning and physical disabilities will remember as one that changed their lives.

Organised by the Education Business Partnership (EBP), a small, Thanet-based charity, more than 800 children from 41 special schools and colleges were ferried from across Kent for an day of exploration and hope for the future at The Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch, near Ashford.

Their mission was to develop skills and employment opportunities for those who face more life challenges than most.

It gave the chance for students to take part in hands-on activities with potential employers and speak to professionals about the multitude of career paths available, despite disability.

Executive director Anne McNulty, said: "To have so many young people together to find out that they are not alone in facing life's challenges was fantastic."

"This event proves to Kent employers – and we have links with 14,000 companies – how wonderful it is to have a special

person on the staff and convince them to give more opportunities for the disabled."

The Canterbury Oast Trust-run charity visitor attraction is a shining example of what can be done.

They have created almost 100 worthwhile jobs for those not able to cope for themselves outside a safe and supportive environment.

They aim to empower individuals to reach their potential, nurture their aspirations, draw out talent to develop self esteem, independence and a sense of achievement.

Evidence was available for all to see and be inspired by as the disabled cared for the animals, delivered the catering services, were growing and selling plants, and serving in the retail outlets, bringing them into contact with the public and helping to break down barriers and foster greater understanding of disability.

Others are trained in arts and crafts, computer skills, and woodland management and crafts.

Sky enjoys the party at greyhound anniversary

A GREYHOUND rescue group celebrated its first anniversary and 100th re-homed dog this month.

Pet owners gathered for a party, where greyhound Sky was the centre of attention. He shared sausages, dog biscuits and a gallop around the paddock with other rescued hounds from across the county.

The charity found a loving home for ex-racer Sky in Herne Bay. He ended up at Kent Greyhound Rescue in March.

Sky is an unusual dog with a blueish coat with small white 'snowflake' patches throughout. He had been suffering from malnutrition and was very reserved due to his training. He now lives with new owners, Dan and Annie.

Kent Greyhound Rescue raised more than £500 towards helping unwanted, abandoned and mistreated dogs by holding a raffle and selling limited edition puppyganda clothing.

Visit www.kentgreyhoundrescue.com for information about re-homing a greyhound.

BREAK TIME

Holocaust survivor shares experiences

HISTORY students at the Marsh Academy had their lessons brought into sharp relief when they heard testimony from a Holocaust survivor.

The talk by Auschwitz survivor Gena Turgel, right, who was born in 1923, was arranged by the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) and followed by a question-and-answer session.



The visit, on Tuesday, May 11, was part of the trust's year-round Outreach Programme, which is available to schools across the UK.

Richard Robinson, assistant principal at the Marsh Academy, said: "It was a privilege to welcome Gena Turgel to our school and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors experienced by so many."

"We hope that by hearing Gena's testimony, it will encourage our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

Karen Pollock, chief executive of the HET, said: "Gena's story is one of tremendous courage in horrific circumstances and, by hearing her testimony, students can learn where prejudice and racism can lead."

"At the trust, we impart the history of the Holocaust to young people, to ensure that we honour the memory of those who died and take forward the lessons taught by those who survived."

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ARMY TASTER: Students were put through their paces on various themed challenges, including an assault course. Right: Josh Bonnefoy's strength is tested fully

The bursary scheme also pays £1,000 per college year for up to five years to students who have passed at the Army development and selection centre.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Hall, commander of regional recruiting, said: "The day was geared towards those students with an interest in joining the Army."

"The day was a tremendous success and the feedback we have had from the participating colleges has been positive: we hope that the students who attended the challenge will now go on to attend further awareness days."



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Concerns that schools rebuild plans face axe

■ BY MARIKE COX

A BILLION-pound project that would see every secondary school in the county rebuilt or refurbished could be scrapped under the new Government's plans.

Ten of the 36 planned schools have started construction work and have contracts to finish the buildings, but the future could look bleak for the majority of Kent and Medway's secondary schools.

The celebrated Building Schools For The Future (BSF) project was introduced by Labour in 2005-06 in a bid to improve every secondary centre in the country.

And with Kent's overall BSF programme – the largest building scheme in Europe – worth an estimated £1.8 billion, County Hall officials believed it could transform 21st-century education.

Last September, Tory Kent County Council leader Paul Carter praised the new schools initiative, stating it would give the county's young people first-class facilities.

But after the Con-Lib coalition took over government, spending plans under BSF – £55bn nationally – look set for review, with fears that funding could be massively reduced.

Education chiefs are worried some of the cash outlined for the BSF programme could be used on academies – which are state-funded but established and managed by sponsors – as well as the Tories' proposed 'free schools'.

These free schools would be state-funded but set up by private organisations or parent-and-teacher groups to compete with state schools in a bid to drive up standards.

Despite initial praise from Cllr Carter for BSF, he told KOS Media he agreed with new education secretary Michael Gove, who called for a review of the scheme.

Cllr Carter said: "Whichever party came into government, it's most unlikely we would have had the same amount of money due to spending cuts that need to be made. I'm expecting a cut of 25-35 per cent for BSF."

Competition

Two weeks before the general election, Cllr Carter revealed his fears to the BBC over the free-schools policy and academies, claiming they could threaten local schools' budgets.

But he retracted his comments, claiming he was 100 per cent behind then-shadow education secretary Mr Gove's plans.

He told KOS Media this week: "There is no disagreement between myself and Mr Gove.

"As long as there is fair competition and fair funding across the board, I think it's good to introduce some competition between schools."

But school heads not yet to sign contracts under the BSF programme fear that if the scheme is scrapped they may not get their much-needed refurbishments.

Already £500 million has been secured in Kent from Partnership For Schools, which is responsible for the Government's capital investment projects.

Andrew Somers is head-teacher of



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Work on some of the 36 newlook secondary schools is under way, or even finished

Hartsdown Technology College in Margate, one of the schools in the second wave of BSF without a signed contract.

"It would be a massive disappointment if it doesn't go ahead," he said.

"It would put us at a huge disadvantage against schools that have been refurbished. We can't deliver the new curriculum without these facilities.

"We're in one of the most deprived areas in Kent. Our school was built in the 1950s with flat roofs which leak – the sports hall roof cost £45,000 to repair.

"Without repairs we'd have to struggle on, but it's unfair on the pupils and staff."

Just down the road from Hartsdown is St George's C of E Foundation School in Broadstairs, one of the first to be completed under the BSF programme.

Head-teacher Kim Stoner said the rebuild was "inspiring", with £1 million of ICT facilities and new open learning areas.

"This is the start of a new future for the school where everybody can realise their aspirations," she said.

Although Mrs Stoner would not comment on the possible axing of BSF funding, she admitted it would be disappointing for any schools to miss out.

Kent independent education adviser Peter Read echoed her words and said he would be furious if funding for BSF was cut with academies and free schools going ahead.

He said: "We are in a Government financial crisis. I can understand the reduction in BSF, but to continue vast funding for academies while other schools in poor conditions are not being repaired is unforgivable. Funding for a new academy is more expensive at around £35m, whereas a BSF school is £20m.

"But Michael Gove sees it that if he scraps BSF and supports academies and free schools he still saves money."

Mr Read also hit out at the free-schools policy, stating the centres would only benefit middle-class areas.

"Who is going to set up a school in a deprived area? And yet these are the places in greatest need," he said.

A statement from Partnership For Schools stated the Department for Education had not yet made a decision on BSF funding but admitted the Government would be undertaking a full comprehensive spending review.

"Ministers will shortly be considering their spending priorities, which will take into account all areas of spending, including schools capital."

Water companies accused of self-interest

HOSEPIPE bans could become more frequent if South East Water presses ahead with a proposed new strategy for the region, a conservation group has warned.

According to Protect Kent – the county branch of the Campaign To Protect Rural England – plans for new groundwater sources and a reservoir near Canterbury are "high-risk" and will not be sufficient in times of drought.

The group voiced its concerns to mark the beginning of a public inquiry into the strategy, which will run until Friday, June 11, and is being led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Former Environment Agency water resources manager Graham Warren, now a senior figure at Protect Kent, spoke against the proposals.

He said: "Based on our many years of experience of the area, we have severe technical reservations about the proposed new groundwater sources [in the Weald] and a new reser-

voir at Broad Oak, near Canterbury. We think they just won't work. In dry periods, as we've had in recent years, this means more frequent hosepipe bans and more pumping from the Medway and the Stour at a time when the wildlife of these rivers is most vulnerable."

The proposals for a new reservoir and boreholes form part of a wider strategy to ensure the region has a safe, sustainable and secure water supply until at least 2035.

After the inquiry ends, new Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman will be given the task of making any changes to the strategy. It will then be revised every five years.

Protect Kent deputy director Sean Furey said: "The biggest thing is that the water companies really haven't worked together that well. We still have five serving the county and there's not much evidence of joined-up thinking between them. They're all trying to defend their own commercial interests."



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your letters



LETTERS: Please send your letters to: The editor, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS

MEP Hannan should resign over NHS slur

Some months ago, Daniel Hannan, one of our Conservative members of the European Parliament, insulted our NHS while touring the US.

I am a diabetic and had a triple heart bypass in October 1997 at St Thomas's Hospital London before being transferred back to Victoria Hospital in Deal.

I have been hospitalised three times at Buckland Hospital, Dover, and twice each at Canterbury and Margate.

I owe my life to the kindness and expertise of the doctors, nurses and ambulance staff and all who work in the NHS and strongly object to anyone who insults them.

So I am calling on everyone who has benefited from their dedication and hard work to demand the resignation of Mr Hannan, who has forfeited the right to represent us in the European Parliament.

Just as MPs who have abused their position should be got rid of, it is time to get rid of this non-representative MEP.

Deryck Murray
Deal

To the thousands who backed me, thank you

I would like to thank the thousands of people who supported me at the general election. I am delighted and honoured to be elected to serve the people of Dover and Deal.

I was stunned to be elected with a majority of almost 5,300. This level of trust places a great sense of responsibility on my shoulders.

Already I have been putting our case to stop the port sale and for a proper hospital.

I will put my all into getting the things we need for our community and will work tirelessly to deliver the people's priorities.

And I am here to serve each elector as well as the constituency as a whole.

If I can assist, please do get in touch with me: Charlie Elphicke MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA; telephone 01304 379669; or email me at charlie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative)
MP for Dover and Deal

East Kent needs a unitary authority

Public spending cuts are with us. Efficiency savings available in east Kent are vast. Each of our four district councils has substantial management teams.

We do not need four management teams to run east Kent. Efficiency savings on this one item alone could save a potential £10 million - £15 million or more.

This is just one aspect of efficiency/economies-of-scale savings that can be achieved with a unitary

yourblogger

An obscure and woolly education system is giving too many pupils the wrong impression



THE tragic suicide of Vicky Harrison has been much in the news. Despite having ten GCSEs, A-C, and three A-levels, she was unable to find a job despite applying for 200 positions. Sad? Yes. But understandable, perhaps.

Recently, a maths exercise book that had been used by the Prince of Wales at Gordonstoun in 1963 when he was 14 came to light.

Prince Charles failed his maths O-level first time round but passed the following year. A pass at O-level was equivalent to a C or better at GCSE today.

The work in the book was assessed by a professor at Plymouth University without knowledge of the owner's name. He commented that the level was at least an A grade today, with some of it now being in the A-level syllabus.

This disparity raises some pertinent questions as to the value of modern qualifications.

If a scraped pass in 1965 would now be rated at least grade A, what is the real level of grades B and C?

Come to that, how would modern A-levels compare in standard with those of more than 40 years ago?

At the time Prince Charles was at school, I attended a direct-grant grammar school – an independent school that received a grant for accepting the brightest pupils from state primaries.

The academic level was very high. Despite that, no pupil took or passed more than eight or nine O-levels, or three A-levels. By no means all of those went to university. Nowadays, ten or more GCSEs are not uncommon, nor are four A-levels – often from what were called secondary-modern schools.

Pardon my scepticism, but I do not think that the modern generation are any more intelligent than we were all that time ago.

More likely that the courses are more superficial and the

exams less rigorous. I blame successive governments for giving pupils inflated perceptions of their abilities.

I do not blame the pupils in any way – they are the products of the system – but I do feel sorry for them.

They have been conned into thinking that a degree is a passport to well-paid occupation when, unfortunately, the skills they offer are not wanted.

In the 1980s, combining O-level with the CSE (Certificate of Secondary Education) was a good thing – it gave a level playing field. So too was the concept of the National Curriculum.

If politicians had just stopped there, things would have been fine – a core of compulsory subjects with a common exam for each. A bit like the old School Certificate.

Other subjects could be offered in addition to the core. But no, politicians had to keep meddling.

Under the Thatcherite doctrines of privatisation and market forces, schools had to pretend to be businesses, striving for custom.

Then there were blanket 'targets' – externally applied – which failed to differentiate between education authorities that retained selection and those that didn't.

Combine targets with league tables, and one has the pernicious situation that encourages schools effectively to cheat and place more emphasis on published exam results than the optimal education for each pupil (which are not the same things).

Good Tory though I may be, some things are too important to be under the direct control of politicians.

We have ended up with thousands of graduates in obscure and woolly subjects from obscure and woolly universities. Education needs a root-and-branch clear-out and a new plan as radical as the 1944 Education Act. But we won't get it.

Poor Vicky Harrison.

If there is a story in your area you think we should cover, phone the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next blogger, all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

council of east Kent.

Why not reduce the effect of the savage public spending cuts about to be felt soon and in the future by merging all four councils?

Reg Hansell
Shepherdsell

Airport plans are still grounded by opinion

Lydd airport's bosses should not get their hopes up for expansion even with the cancellation of Heathrow's Runway 3 project as the economic and environmental situation still remains firmly against it, as does local opinion.

The recent disruption due to the volcano in Iceland means that air-travel prices are rising by about 5.2 per cent this year and maybe more than 11 per cent next year to compensate.

The new government's likely cuts will make it more difficult for people to afford even short-haul holidays, so they will opt for the staycation options.

A survey of the UK's businesspeople in March revealed that they prefer the high-speed-rail option rather than expanded airports.

On the environment, the arrival of the purple herons near Lydd airport shows that the Marsh is an important conduit for those species needing to move north because of global warming. An expanding airport could greatly inhibit this.

Victorian way of life coming to seafront?

A quote in last week's paper from Trevor Minter addressing a meeting on the future of Folkestone's seafront said this was a "once in a century" opportunity to emulate what the Victorians had done for the town.

True, the Victorians did bring the railway to Folkestone, but my children's encyclopedia also says:

"What was life like living during the Victorian times? The quality of life depended on whether you were rich or poor. If you were rich you could have a good and easy life. But if you were poor you could have a rough and hard life, often ending up in the workhouse or early death."

Something to look forward to, I suppose!

Andy Cadier
Folkestone

Lend your support to free our innocent Bill

I'd like to thank readers who have pledged their support to help free my husband, Bill Shaw, a former British Army major, who has been wrongfully convicted of corruption in Afghanistan and jailed for two years.

Bill is an honourable man who has served the British people and been awarded the MBE for his work in the Royal Military Police.

Ray Duff
Folkestone

He believed he was making a legitimate payment to Afghan officials after his company's (G4S) vehicles were impounded by a unit of the Afghan government.

He carried out the payment in good faith and openly, to the extent that it was fully documented and approved in accordance with his company's procedures.

Bill was sentenced on April 26 this year and is now in a Kabul prison where Taliban are also held.

For a British Army veteran this is unacceptable; for an innocent man it is absolutely monstrous. The charges against Bill were totally misconceived and not proven in court – he is an innocent man.

Bill's family are campaigning for his release by calling on the Afghan and British authorities to help us overturn this unfair judgement.

We're asking people to register their support by signing at petitiononline.com (William Shaw MBE), at Facebook (Free Bill Shaw) or Twitter (@freebillshaw); the more people who show their support, the better our chances of justice.

Liz Shaw (Bill's wife)

Address supplied to the editor

Sorry coalition of vacuous chancers

May I congratulate Damian Collins on his election victory. May I also congratulate the Tory Party for swallowing its own bile and getting into coalition with its sworn enemy.

I now look forward to Shepway council leader Robert Bliss taking Lib Dem Lynne Beaumont to his bosom and inviting her to share power. The ultimate prize. A Blissful coalition of age and beauty.

A coalition pointing in both directions at the same time on Dungeness power station, on Lydd airport and on illegal immigrants, to name just a few policies upon which the parties disagree.

Come next year's district-council elections, will there be any reason for the Lib Dems to exist in Shepway? They can't honestly now oppose the Conservatives, having been taken over by them nationally.

Having surrendered so abjectly their three core policies on Trident, the euro and an amnesty for illegal immigrants, what else have they left to stand for?

No Dungeness C at the very time our new MP Damian Collins is calling upon the Lib Dem Energy Secretary Chris Huhne to build it.

No extension of the runway at Lydd now the coalition is opposed to the expansion of the third runway at Heathrow and instead favours regional airports.

And no cuts in wages or jobs now the Lib Dem Treasury Secretary David Laws is wielding the knife like Sweeney Todd possessed.

The citizens of Shepway need not trouble themselves too unduly over what the Lib Dems or indeed the Tories now stand for locally.

The Labour Party in Shepway will be exposing what they stand for between now and next year's council elections or the collapse of this coalition of vacuous chancers.

Donald Worsley

Folkestone and Hythe Labour Party

Truants are targeted

ABSENCE rates have a direct correlation with how Kent's secondary schools fare in Ofsted inspections, according to new figures.

Of the four secondary schools currently rated "inadequate" in the county, three are among the ten worst for persistent absence.

The figures were revealed in a report to members of the county council's learning and development policy overview and scrutiny committee.

Councillors were also told Kent had reached its target of no more than 5.5 per cent persistent absence a year early.

Rates of overall absenteeism have shown a year-on-year decrease from 8.19 per cent in 2006/07 to 7.63 per cent in 2008/09, which is still higher than the national average of 7.21 per cent.

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Organisers discuss Canterbury Climate Fair. Search 'climate'

Public will get more info on County Hall spending

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

KENT County Council has agreed to open itself up to greater scrutiny by publishing details of its monthly accounts.

The move comes just weeks after Liberal Democrat councillors accused the ruling Conservative administration of being opposed to transparency over what it spends taxpayers' money on.

However, cabinet member for finance John Simmonds said it was something he had planned to do for some time.

"We've been working on it for a year or so," he said. "It's nothing new. The runes were there and we knew it was something both Labour and the Tories wanted nationally, so we would have been stupid to bury our heads in the sand only to then panic when it was forced upon us."

Prime Minister David Cameron has already said he intends to make it a statutory duty for local authorities to publish much more information about how public money is spent by councils.

Cllr Simmonds revealed that KCC was to develop proposals on how to publish regular accounts of its spending and that it wanted to implement them within a year.

However, he said the information needed to be



BANK ON IT: Greater transparency over County Hall's use of taxpayers' money will lead to monthly accounts relevant enough to warrant the time and money spent on providing it.

He said: "The problem I have is that in the £500 or more category we're talking about 300,000 entries per year or almost 6,000 per week. If you toss this amount of information into the ether, who is going to look at it and will it be meaningful?

"We want it to have some purpose. We don't want to throw it all out there just so we can say

'Aren't we good'. Already with the Freedom of Information Act we receive a lot of spurious requests that are expensive to run and you're never quite sure where the individual is going with it. That's money that can be spent in better ways."

KCC came under fire last month when it was revealed that during 2008-09 County Hall had more senior officers earning in excess of £100,000 a year than any local authority in the UK.

The council also refused to name who was earning what and Cllr Simmonds said that would not change when it started to publish monthly accounts.

He said: "I think we're going to have to provide details of people's salaries. I don't mind releasing job titles, but I hope we won't have to identify individuals.

"I doubt there are many people who would like everyone to know how much they earn."

Last month, Lib Dems accused the Tories of snubbing their request to discuss ways of publishing the council's expenses.

However, Lib Dem group leader Trudy Dean welcomed Cllr Simmonds's statements despite his refusal to discuss the plans in public.

She said: "It's a shame he's chosen to do it in one of the committees that is private.

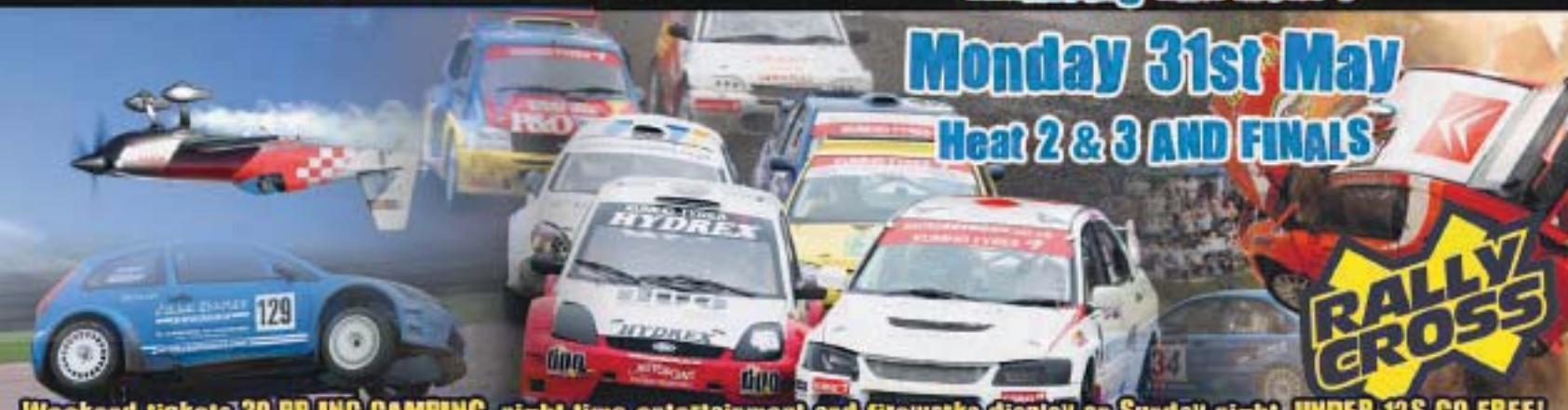
"It's chaired by me, I'll give him that, but if we're looking at the principles of transparency, then why can't it be held in public?"

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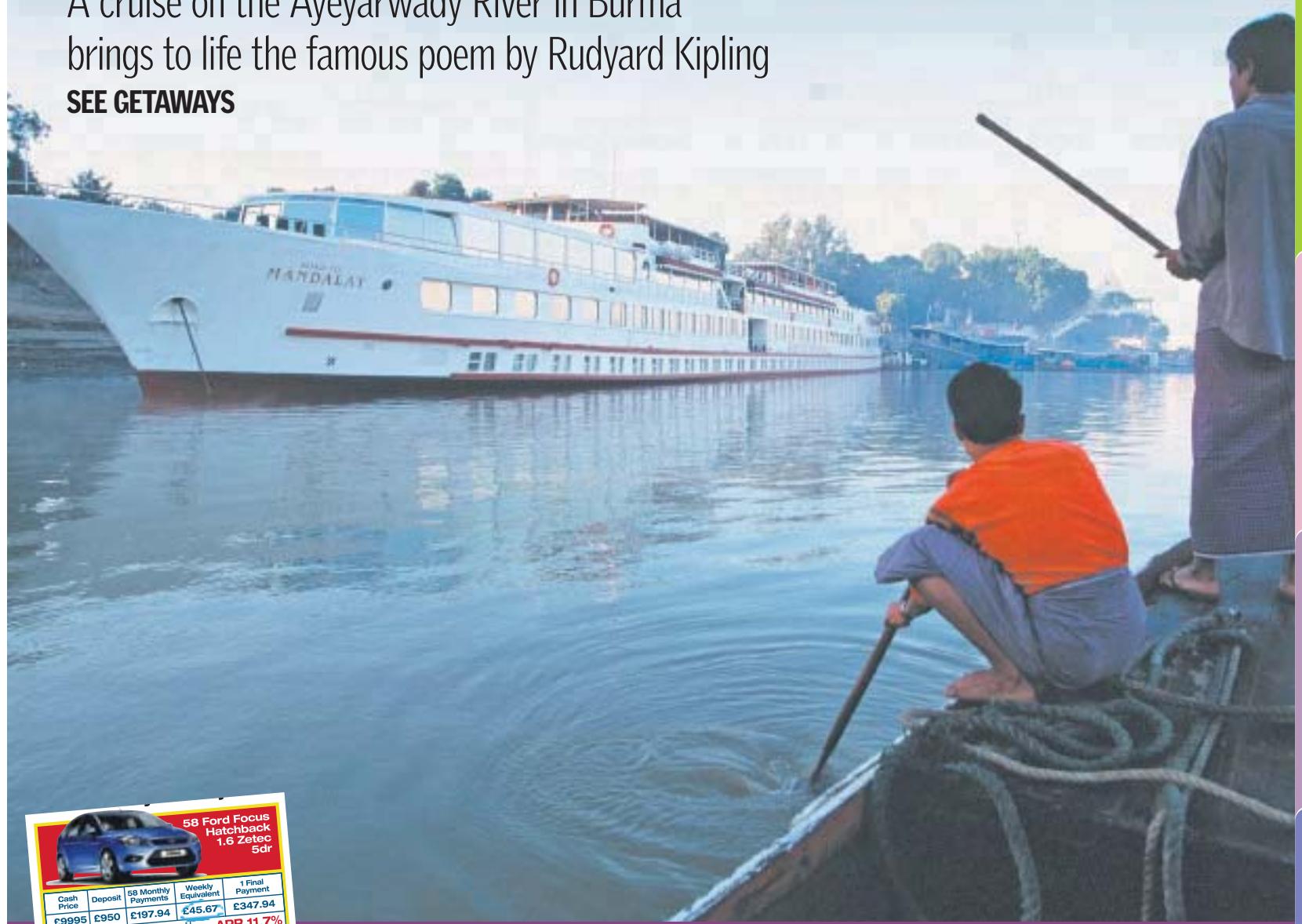


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DAY & NIGHT**Triple bill of laughter**

SEE top comedians in action as The Comedy Club returns to Ramada Dover and Ashford International Hotel.

Three comics perform in Dover at 9pm on Thursday. Tickets cost £12 for the show or £20 with a meal. Three more appear in Ashford on Friday. Tickets cost £14/£18/£20.

Call 01304 872843 to book the Dover date or 01233 219988 for Ashford or visit www.hahaheehee.com.

Find bargain on safari

DISCOVER a bargain with the Lympne Garage Sale Safari event on Sunday.

For 50p, buy a map from the village shop in Honeywood Close, which will guide visitors around the sales. Refreshments and toilets will be available at the village hall.

The event is organised by the Lympne Village Hall Committee and runs from 9am to 1pm.

Pot painting workshop

CHILDREN aged seven and above can try pottery painting at Pick 'n' Paint a Pot in Northdown Road, Cliftonville.

At 10.30am from Tuesday to Thursday the studio will run 90-minute workshops. Admission costs £5 per child.

To find out more call 01843 297778 or visit www.picknpaintapot.co.uk.

Guitarists swing back

VERSATILE guitarists Jamie Moore and Dave Reay return to Deco 5 in Whitstable by popular demand.

Canadian-born Moore and Reay, from Maidstone, cover a range of music from jazz to Latin Swing. The performance starts at 8pm on Sunday and admission is free. For details call 01227 770079 or visit www.deco5.co.uk.

Son's dramatic debut

PHILIP Ayckbourn's first full-length play to tour the UK can be seen at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs.

Written by Alan Ayckbourn's son, The Essence of Love explores unlikely passions between four British tourists in Marrakech. Tickets for the play on Saturday and Sunday are £12.50/£10.50.

Call 0845 2626263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Night out with Tommy

CELEBRATE the legacy of a comedy legend when Jus' Like That – A Night Out with Tommy Cooper visits Margate.

Clive Mantle stars in the show about the much-loved star's life and career at Theatre Royal Margate at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £16. To book call 0845 130 1786 or 01227 787787 or visit www.theatreroyalMargate.com.

Chance of musical role

SINGERS aged between 16 and 30 are sought for the amusing musical, A Slice of Saturday Night.

The show will be staged at Ramsgate's Granville Theatre in August and auditions will be held on June 6 and 7, with a pre-audition get-together on Friday.

Call Trudi Kingham on 01843 855000 or email t.kingham1@btconnect.com.

Stand up for a festival of fun

STAND UP!**FOLKESTONE COMEDY FESTIVAL**

Friday, May 28 to Monday, May 31
Quarterhouse, Folkestone



ADD some belly laughs to your bank holiday weekend with the Stand Up! Folkestone Comedy Festival.

Now in its second year, the celebration of chuckles is presented by Quarterhouse and the Creative Foundation.

The event aims to bring some of the country's best stand-up comedians to Kent, as well as giving invaluable opportunities to the stars of tomorrow.

This year's festival kicks off with television star and acclaimed comic, Chris Addison, below, who will be entertaining an audience with his distinctive comedy on Friday night.

Combining whimsical observations and daft gags with 'lies and flapping about', the amiable



New and established comics queuing up to make you laugh this Bank Holiday weekend

but animated performer will take fans on a journey through his unique world.

As well as being a hit on the stand-up circuit, Addison is also a rising television and film star. He is most noted for his role as a hapless junior policy advisor, Olly Reeder, in Armando Iannucci's BBC comedy, *The Thick of It*.

His co-star, Peter Capaldi, has become something of an icon with his portrayal of a foul-mouthed political spin doctor, and the pair reprised their roles in the BAFTA-winning film, *In The Loop*, which was also Oscar nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Addison also landed his own sitcom, *Lab Rats*, and hosts the BBC Five Live radio show, *Seven Day Sunday*. Friday's show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15.

Spot the stars of the future as six rising comics battle it out for your votes at the Quarterhouse and Lonestar Comedy Young Guns Newcomers Competition.

Suzi Ruffell, Danny Ward, Carly Smallman, Paul F Taylor, Mark Simmons each have 10 minutes to tickle those funny bones and the winner gets £100 and the chance to perform at Quarterhouse and Lonestar Clubs.

Established comic Trevor Lock will keep the audience laughing during the voting. Once a regular on Russell Brand's BBC Radio 2 show, Lock has become a popular comic on the circuit and is also a respected comedy writer.

The show starts at 10pm on Friday and tickets are £8, or £5 if bought with a ticket to see Chris Addison.

The fun continues on Saturday when Hardeep Singh Kohli, right, invites you to spend time with The Nearly Naked Chef.

The Glaswegian Sikh has a unique delivery and knows how to combine good food with great laughs in this acclaimed show.

The Nearly Naked Chef played to sold-out audiences at last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival and now the extended, two-course version should satisfy the appetites of all comedy fans out there. Enjoy a taste of his comedy at 7.30pm on Saturday with tickets priced at £14/£12.

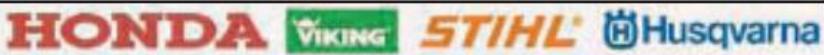
Experience the magic of Disease Hour and the hits of hospital radio DJ Ivan Brackenbury, when he rocks Quarterhouse at 8pm on Sunday. Alter ego Tom Binns has created a popular and enthusiastic persona at Brimlington General Hospital.

Described as a laugh-a-minute experience, Brackenbury's show is a comedy riot as the hospital radio presenter takes his show on the road and broadcasts back to his beloved patients in Brimlington. Tickets cost £10/£8.

To book tickets or find out more call 01303 858500 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.



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History and great food at village pub

The George and Dragon

THE George and Dragon is a free house and the building dates from 1557, while it has been licensed as an ale house since 1562.

It featured in a cult film entitled A Canterbury Tale by renowned film-maker Michael Powell when it was known as The Hand of Glory and was once the toll house for Fordwich Bridge.

It has a great selection of real ales; board games and books are available; and there is free wifi. The latest feature guest ales are from Wantsum Brewery – a local micro-

brewery in Hersden, near Canterbury. Tasty home-cooked food is served and there are more than 50 whiskies from which to choose.

Regular events include psychic evenings – the next of which is on Tuesday, June 8, at 9pm – and quizzes [next tomorrow, Thursday, at 8pm] and are all detailed on the Facebook group 'The George and Dragon, Fordwich'.

Menu favourites include Cajun mushrooms, barbecue ribs, fish and chips and sticky toffee pudding or chocolate brownie sundae for dessert. There is a fun quiz every second Thursday which is free to enter, and there's a charity quiz once a month – £2 entry, maximum six people per team – backing a different charity every month.

The pub supports local charities including the

Pilgrims Hospice, Kent Smiles, Sunny Days, Cancer Research and Breast Cancer Campaign.

Newly refurbished last year, the pub still retains its history with a collection of artefacts and photos.

It is open from 11am until 11pm, Mondays to Thursdays (last orders for food at 9.30pm), 11am until midnight Fridays and Saturdays (last food orders 10pm) and 11am until 10.30pm on Sundays (last food orders 9pm).

In summary, this is a pub with a lot to offer: a beautiful riverside garden; a great range of ales, whiskies and wines; friendly, attentive staff and a great atmosphere, with food served all day, every day.

George and Dragon, King Street, Fordwich CT2 0DB
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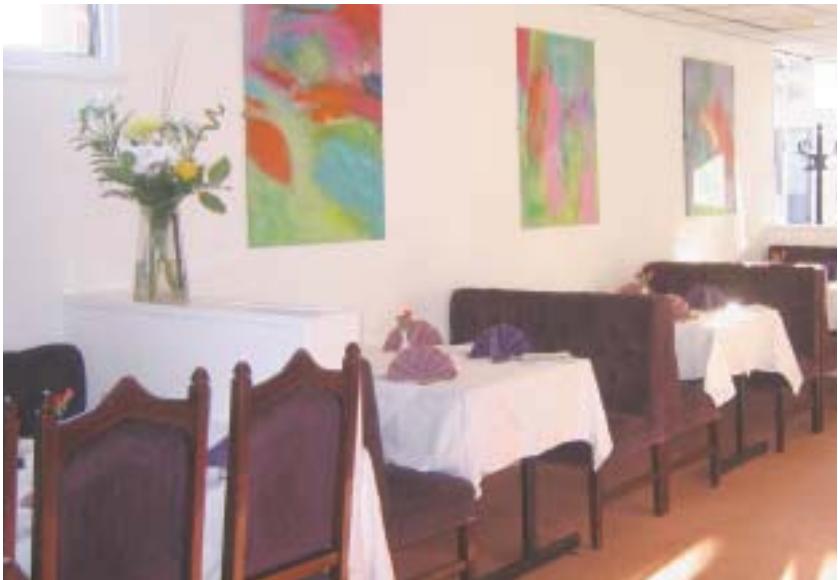
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out guide

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THE Shapla Tandoori in Harbour Street, Whitstable, sets itself apart from the many Indian restaurants in the area with its quality and service.

Owner Shahin Rahman said: "It has been established in the area for 16 years and has enhanced its reputation through word of mouth – satisfied customers have been quick to pass on the name and recommend dishes they have particularly enjoyed."

The restaurant is also popular with the many visitors to the town, especially during the summer months.

The restaurant has been in business for 16 years and is open from Sunday to Thursday from noon until 2.30pm and from 6pm until 11.30pm.

On Friday and Saturday opening hours are noon until 2.30pm, and 6pm until midnight.

There is a new midweek offer for customers:

the Wednesday-night banquet. Choose a starter, main course, rice or naan plus coffee at only £8.95 per head.

The Sunday family buffet is extremely popular and outside catering can be arranged for special events.

One of the most popular dishes on the menu is the tandoori mixed grill, which includes chicken tikka, seekh kebab, lamb tikka and tandoori chicken.

The chef has been working at the premises for 11 years and staff pride themselves on their expertise and knowledge of Indian food.

They are always willing to advise diners on particular combinations of dishes and make recommendations if they are looking for a particular dish or new culinary experience.

Feedback is carefully monitored by Mr Rahman and his staff – there is even a book for customers to leave their comments.

Shapla Tandoori, 36 Harbour Street, Whitstable CT5 1AJ
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CARTER'S STEAM FAIR

Saturday, May 29 to Monday, May 31. Dreamland Margate

TAKE a thrilling journey back in time and enjoy the amusements of the past as Carter's Steam Fair rolls into town.

Designed to whet the appetite for the revival of Dreamland in 2012, the fair offers a variety of vintage rides, many of which may have appeared at Dreamland in the past.

From the Gallopers and Helter Skelter to the Swingboats and Victory Dive Bomber, there is plenty of nostalgic fun on offer.

One of the most exciting attractions is James Messham's Wall of Death, exhilarating motorcycle action which has

been passed from father to son since 1929.

For more than 80 years, the daredevil spectacle has been thrilling audiences and is now run by the fourth generation of Messhams.

On Bank Holiday Monday there will be live music on Marine Terrace from noon, courtesy of the Ace Cafe London. Mods and rockers will be hopping on their bikes and taking their annual run to the seaside for the Margate Meltdown.

Carter's Steam Fair runs from 11am each day. Find out more at www.dreamlandmargate.com.



MINISTRY OF SOUND: THE GALLERY

Saturday, May 29, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

CLUBBERS will be in seventh heaven when the Leas Cliff Hall hosts a major dance event.

Promotions company ToneDeff UK has teamed up with Ministry of Sound's most successful club night, The Gallery, to celebrate its 15th anniversary and Kent dance music fans have the chance to enjoy a spectacular all-nighter this weekend.

A stellar line-up of 13 DJs will keep the music coming from 9pm to 6am. The acts include global stars Marcel Woods, Tall Paul, Jon O'Bir and the world's number one VJ – or visual jock-

ey – Habs Akram. With a cutting edge sound and light system, the event promises to provide a night-long assault on the senses and keep feet moving from dusk until dawn.

Many electronic music fans in Kent have to travel far and wide to enjoy the best music in the genre, or visit London clubs such as Ministry of Sound and Fabric. But this weekend Kent clubbers have the chance to enjoy world class music on their doorstep.

Tickets cost £25. Call 0844 847 1776 or go to www.tonedeff.co.uk or www.leascliffhall.org.uk.



OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

Sunday, May 30, Winter Gardens, Margate

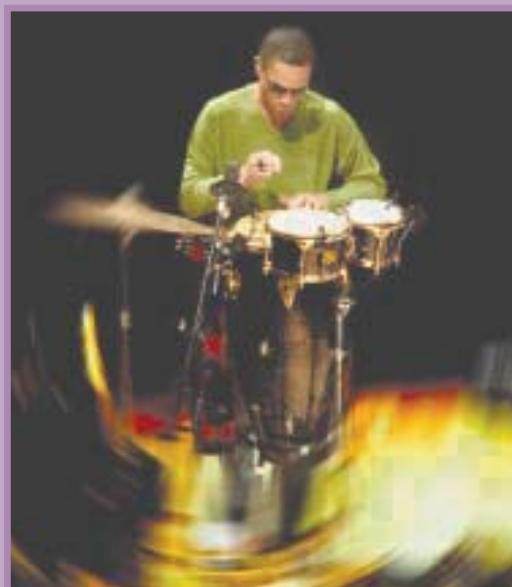
SPEND an evening with one of the country's most acclaimed live bands when Ocean Colour Scene visits Thanet.

Ocean Colour Scene was one of the key bands of the Brit Pop period, achieving several big hits with their distinctive guitar riffs, such as The Riverboat Song and The Day We Caught the Train. Three of their albums made the top five of the UK chart, with Marchin' Already reaching the number one in 1997.

The band's performance at the V Festivals last year earned them the honour of being named The Best Live Band of the Festival, and two subsequent sold-out concerts at the Shepherds Bush Empire confirmed their status as one of the indie rock scene's greatest live acts.

This weekend the band's front man Simon Fowler and drummer Oscar Harrison will be giving an intimate acoustic concert in the venue's Queen's Hall, while guitarist Steve Cradock tours with Paul Weller. Support will be provided by local surf rock group, Hazy Shade.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10. To book call the box office on 01843 292795/296111 or go online at www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



FIVE STAR SWING

Sunday, May 30, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

GET in the mood for an evening of nostalgic entertainment with the toe-tapping band, Five Star Swing.

Five Star Swing presents a fantastic feel-good concert packed full of great swing, jazz and blues tunes. In the Mood takes audiences on a musical journey through the sounds of the genre's great performers, with songs by Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra and infectious jazz and blues in the style of Jools Holland.

The band performed at the Vera Lynn Charity Ball in London and In the Mood features some great multi-instrumentalists and singers. At the helm is Chris Smith, who is a former composer for Glenn Miller's brother Herb, the BBC Big Band and the Royal Variety Performance.

There will also be a special guest, Simone of the Ivy Benson Orchestra, who has been seen on BBC's Children in Need.

Take a trip back to the heyday of swing with this highly entertaining and well-crafted production. The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12/£11.

To book call the box office on 01843 591750. More information can be found at www.granvilletheatre.com.



InME

Saturday, May 29, Westcoast, Margate



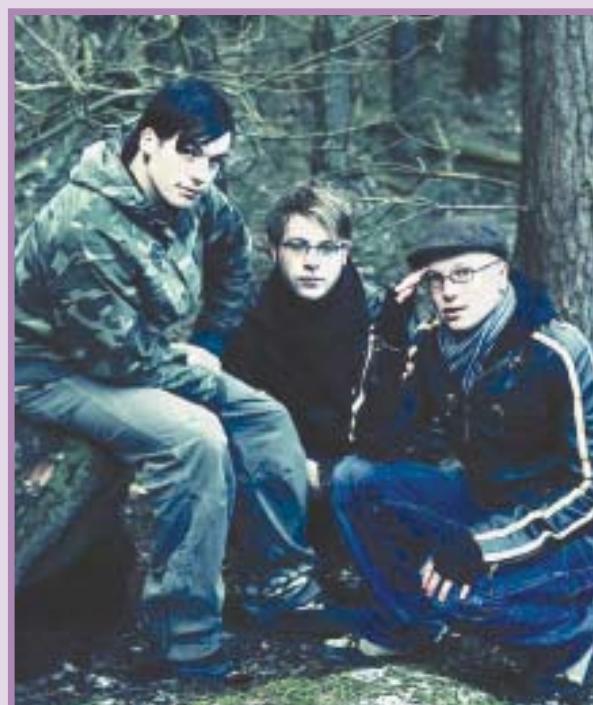
FIND out where the music comes from when InME rock the Westcoast this weekend.

Formed in 1996 under the name Drowned, the band decided to change their name five years later when they decided there were too many similarly-named groups. The new name was inspired when member Joe Morgan was asked where the music came from.

They signed with Music For Nations in 2001 but later moved to V2 and launched their own record label, Pandora's Box. They have since released two albums and are now back to promote their new release, Herald Moth.

Fei Comodo is one of the best scream-hardcore bands in the country and they will be showing off their powerhouse style in a support slot. Telford-based band, Envy of the State, was invited to join the tour by InME and the show will be opened by alternative metal band, Imicus. Between sets, Mike Lloyd will be performing acoustic sets to keep the party mood going.

Doors open at 7.30pm. Priced at £10, advance tickets are available at www.westcoastlive.co.uk, by emailing westcoast-bar1@aol.co.uk or call 07938 090700.



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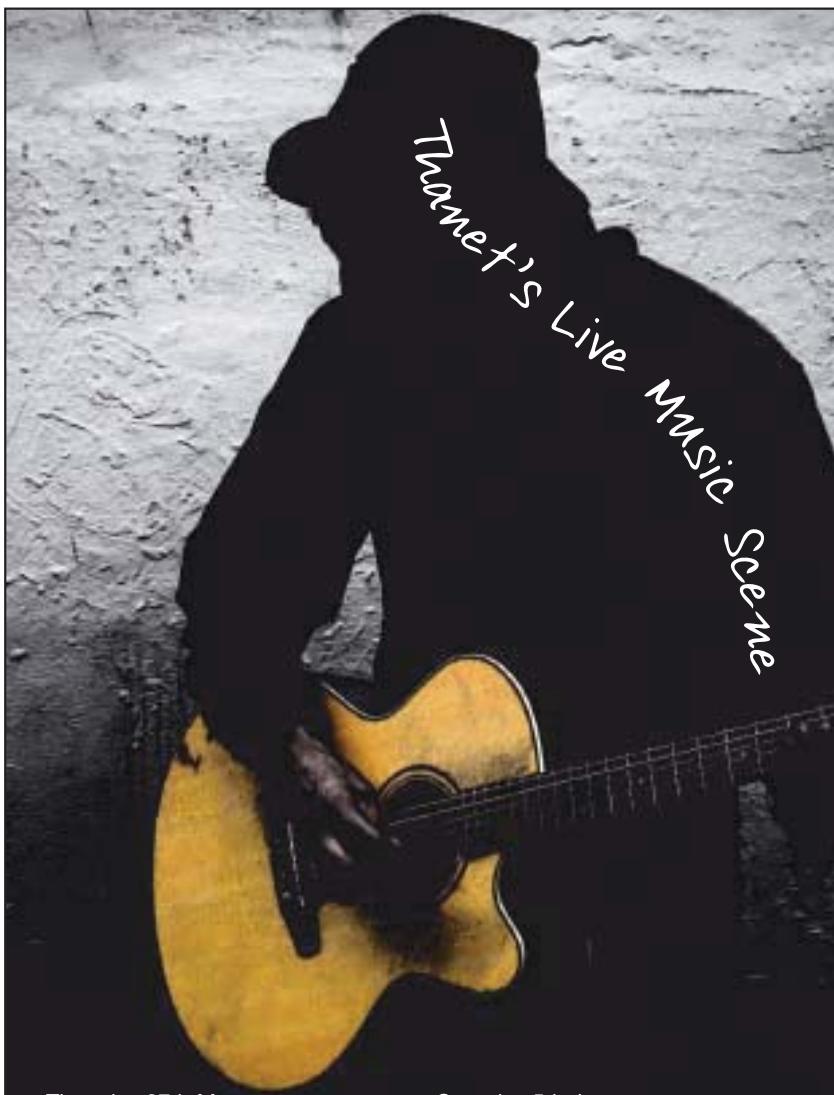
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Sunday 31st May

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Saturday 5th June

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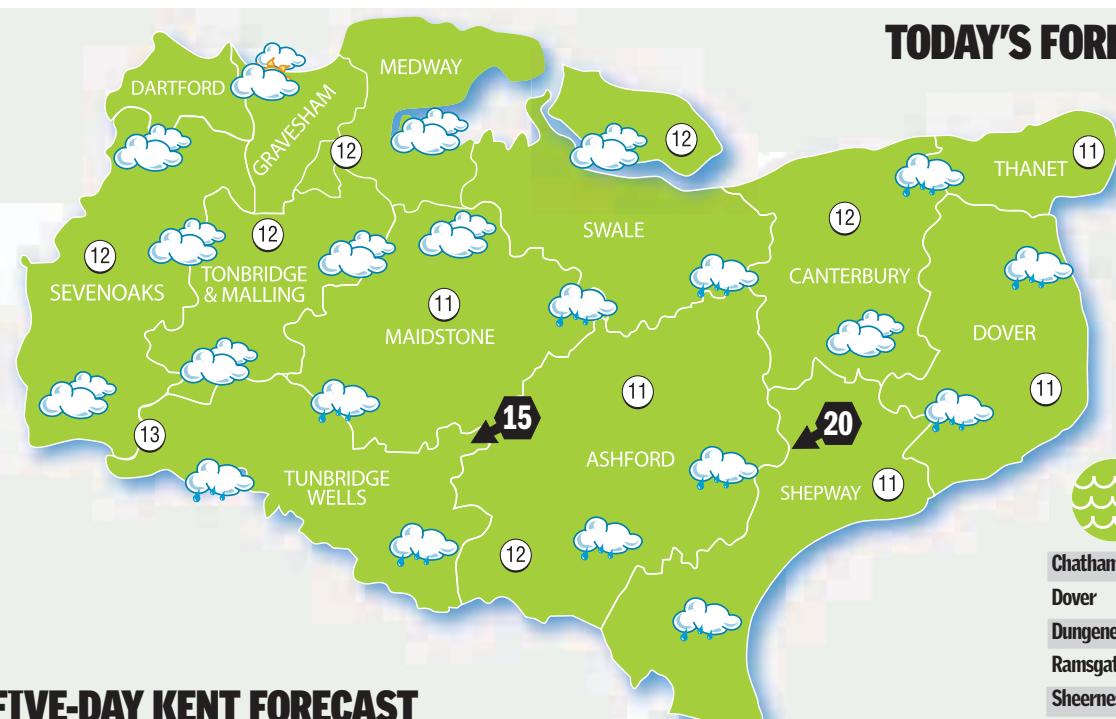
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Athens	22°C	New York	17°C
Barcelona	22°C	Paris	28°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	22°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	17°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	19°C	Tokyo	18°C
Gibraltar	21°C	Vancouver	13°C
Hong Kong	29°C	Warsaw	18°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	14°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon							
Ashford	15°C	12°C	16°C	15°C	17°C	Dover	14°C	11°C	13°C	14°C	14°C	Gravesend
Canterbury	13°C	12°C	14°C	16°C	16°C	Faversham	14°C	12°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Maidstone
Chatham	14°C	12°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Folkestone	14°C	11°C	13°C	14°C	14°C	Ramsgate
Dartford	17°C	14°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Gillingham	14°C	12°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Rochester

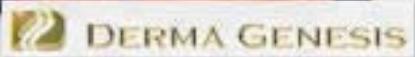
Chatham	Saturday	2:27pm 5.9m	Sunday	3:06pm 5.8m
Dover	Saturday	12:47pm 6.4m	Sunday	1:27pm 6.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:41pm 7.4m	Sunday	1:20pm 7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:17pm 4.9m	Sunday	1:57pm 4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:17pm 5.6m	Sunday	2:56pm 5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:20pm 5.1m	Sunday	2:59pm 5.1m

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 MOONRISE 7:50pm MOONSET 3:23am



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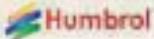
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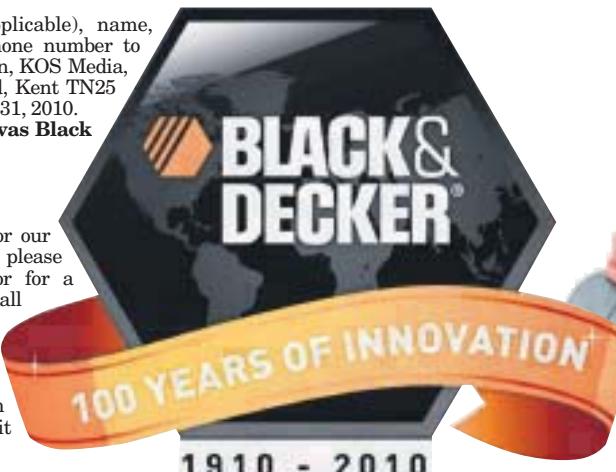
your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Black & Decker® Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is May, 31, 2010.

Question: In what year was Black & Decker® founded?

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- b) 1910
- c) 1890

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Getting ready for a laugh at LOTF



STAND UP: Phill Jupitus will be bringing his unique style of comedy to the festival

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

FUNNYMAN Phill Jupitus will headline this year's Lounge on the Farm comedy tent.

The established panel show and stand-up comic, a regular on the BBC's Never Mind the Buzzcocks and QI programmes, will bring the laughter line-up to a close on the festival's final night, Sunday, July 11.

Convicted drug smuggler turned author and mayoral candidate Howard Marks will also appear on the Canterbury three-dayer's comedy bill, taking to the stage on the second night.

A Lounge spokesman said: "With Mr Nice himself Howard Marks in attendance you can be sure of some jaw-droppingly amazing anecdotes from one of the world's greatest rascals."

"From being top of the FBI's most wanted list to running for Mayor of London Howard has a treasure trove of tales to draw upon and simply can't be missed.

"Sunday will see all-round comedy colossus Phill Jupitus bring his Impro All Stars to Merton Farm for some side-splitting unscripted shenanigans.

"Phill is a master at work who will make sure that Lounge on the Farm ends in side-splitting style."

Other highlights from The Playhouse comedy tent include Andre Vincent, who has notched up three sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival, and Marty McLean, who has spent the last 11 years taking his observational and occasionally dark humour across North America and Europe.

Comic Pete Cain is also one to watch. The stand-up's second ever gig saw him reach the semi-finals of Channel 4's So You Think You're Funny competition in 2002.

Since then he has appeared at every major UK comedy club, warmed up at the BBC for That

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ON: Whitstable outfit Flipswitch perform their track Position Politician



SMALL GIG: Smugglers Records at the Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

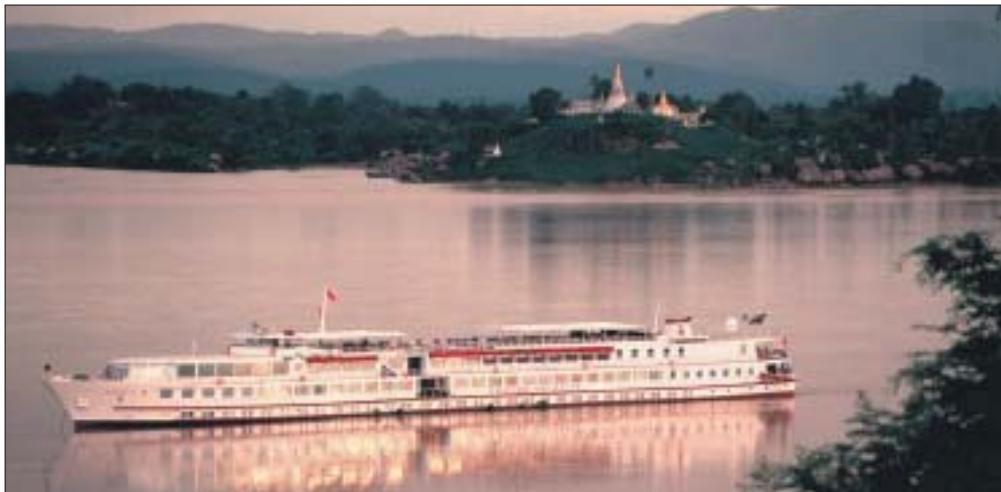
- 1 Craig Sheridan - Aurora (from Deal)
- 2 Rogues Down - Poison Arrow (from Deal)
- 3 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 4 Save Target As - Pieces of our Hearts (from Deal)
- 5 I.R.I.S - Aversion To Light (from Deal)

Mitchell & Webb Look and become a favourite of the summer festival circuit.

During the day The Playhouse tent will be used by a range of children's entertainers.

Among the LOTF headliners are Motown greats Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, ska legends Toots & The Maytals, The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, DJ Yoda and Courtney Pine.

For more information visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.



SETTING SAIL: The 300ft Road To Mandalay, which carries 82 passengers in old colonial grandeur and five-star cabins, is boarded at Yangon

yourgetaways



On the road to Mandalay, where the flyin'-fishes play

■ BY THEO UNDERWOOD

IT'S more than 100 years since Rudyard Kipling painted a famous portrait of the East in his poem, Mandalay – and when you sail down the Ayeyarwady River in Burma on a luxury cruiser you feel that little has changed since then.

It is hardly, of course, a coincidence that the boat we are travelling on carries the same name as Oley Speaks' later song adaptation of the poem.

The 300ft Road To Mandalay carries 82 passengers in old colonial grandeur and five-star cabins.

To catch the boat, you fly to Singapore and on to Yangon before catching the racket plane which hovers above dense green jungles, with Burmese military men taking all the front seats.

After that, the creature comforts of The Road To Mandalay are a soothing surprise.

The £4 million refurbishment has created an elegant restaurant with teak wall carvings from Amanpura. Also, 34 new state and deluxe cabins have en-suite bathrooms with jade tiles and walk-in showers.

Now we can sit on deck as Kipling's vivid vision of dawn breaking like thunder and temples shimmering in the sunlight comes to life before our eyes.

Children splash in the shallows, playing tag among themselves while their mothers wash the family's longyi – traditional Burmese robes – in the river's thick, khaki-green water.

Fishermen, armed only with bamboo sticks for rods and the bottoms of plastic bottles for goggles, hunt their daily catch from long-tail boats.

Beyond the river's banks, hundreds of pagodas – some made of red sandstone, others gilded with gold leaf – are scattered across the rice fields.

Burma, for much of the time, seems

FACT FILE: BURMA

Capital	Naypyidaw
Capital	Cairo
Language	Burmese
Population	approx 50,000,000
Currency	Kyat
Religion	Buddhist



International flights extra, from approx £745 return.

• With no Burmese currency, the Kyat, available outside the country, tourists pay in dollars. Notes should be of low denomination (below \$20), clean and crisp.

• Visa needed by British passport holders costs £14, lasts 90 days and allows a visit up to 28 days. Apply to Burmese Embassy in London, although Orient-Express also arranges visas.

to have missed out on the 20th century. Or perhaps it is a trick of the strange, ethereal quality of the light.

Before setting sail from Mandalay, I took a rowing boat out on Taung Tha Man lake. The light at dusk broke through the teak struts of U Bein's bridge – a 1,300m-long skeletal structure rising from the water.

However, one of the most exhilarating experiences Burma offers awaited us 120 miles downstream.

A hot-air balloon whisked us 2,000ft above the ancient city of Bagan for a breathtaking view of its 4,000 temples, stupas and pagodas.

The city itself no longer exists, but its shrines to Buddha, built over hundreds of years on a stretch of delta the size of Manhattan Island, appear one by one at sunrise to form an intricate, crimson patchwork on an ochre landscape.

After our bumpy landing, eased by Champagne, we joined a bicycle tour for a close-up view of Bagan's temples.

Many are adorned with frescos telling the story of Buddha and although most have decayed in to ruin, or are awaiting restoration following the devastating 1975 earthquake, there are a few murals worth seeing – thanks to the intervention of UNESCO.

It is easy to be overawed by spectacular monuments to Buddhism in Bagan. While a temple, stupa or pagoda can be found at every turn, Burmese people deeply respect the religion and the monks – even if they are not committed Buddhists.

Given the tense political situation, many travellers avoid Burma. However, Orient-Express argues its involvement preserves jobs – around 150 on the boat and 110 at The Governor's Residence Hotel.

Square your own conscience before you depart. Repression may enable Burma to preserve the mystery of the Orient, lost beneath tourist hordes in other parts of south-east Asia.

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CIVIC, 1.6SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue, 29000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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CIVIC, 1.8EXEC AUTO, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid split folding rear seats sun roof tinted glass traction control remote central locking, deep sapphire blue met, 7032 miles, £15500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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2. JULIE BELL STATIONARY

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3. EMILY BOND T-COSY

This textile company is based in Bristol and was launched with the aim of providing a modern twist to country living. All the designs are printed on pure natural linen having been sourced from within the UK and great care is taken to support high quality British manufacturing.

4. FALLEN FRUITS

Supplied by Fallen Fruits, these Aged Metal Planters come as a set of three in reducing sizes, but can also be purchased individually. The cast iron frog is from the Classic Cast Iron Collection, quirky fun and highly collectable!

5. HERITAGE TOYS

This range of Heritage products takes you to the heart of iconic Britain! Designed to capture the eye, this bright and colourful traditional range of wooden products include bandsmen press-ups, soldier skittles and traditional games which appeal to both children and adults alike.

6. CAROL RIDLER

Carol Ridler Hand Crafted Wood is a totally rural enterprise producing wooden pieces for decoration inspired by English country life. Founded in 2006 by Carol who lives and works in an old farming village overlooking the Vale of Belvoir with her chocolate labrador 'Dougal'.

7. CRAFTY KIDS PUPPETS AND CRAFT KITS

With over 25 puppet designs to collect, these beautifully simple original puppet and craft kits contain everything you need to make the project inside.

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9. LUCY TOM DOORSTOPS

Lucy Tom based in Cirencester Wiltshire, started as a home curtain/blind making business, but with so many offcuts this dynamic entrepreneur has created a new doorstop business. Using quirky and original designs, now famous for their chickens and scotty dogs.

10. BOUGIES LA FRANCAISE

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PROPERTY NEWS

Buy-to-let market gets loans boost

Steve Osborne,
The Mortgage
Man, shares his
knowledge with
you in his popular
fortnightly column



THE buy-to-let sector looks likely to be revitalised following the reintroduction of 80 per cent mortgages to this area of the housing market.

It marks an end to a long period during which lenders were wary of providing funds for the buy to let market and were insisting on borrowers raising a significant deposit before providing any finance.

This requirement stifled the market by making it difficult for investors to withdraw equity from their portfolios to make further purchases.

This week's re-introduction of 80 per cent mortgages for buy-to-let properties means that landlords now only need to find a deposit of 20 per cent in order to purchase homes to let.

Although the offer is currently only available to experienced landlords, it is a major leap forward and I expect to see further enhancements in the weeks and months to come.

We are still some way off of seeing 85 per cent borrowing available for buy-to-lets, which is where we were some time ago, but I don't believe this is a bad thing if we want to see long-term growth and stability in the housing market as a whole.

Fees are still an issue with buy-to-let mortgages, with many lenders charging up to 3.5 per cent at the outset. While this may work for smaller mortgages, it makes larger loans expensive and it would be helpful to see some lenders offering a fixed fee structure.

As with all mortgages, landlords need to weigh up the total cost of borrowing and not just consider the headline rate, however appealing it may appear.

This more relaxed lending approach is bound to result in more people buying second homes to let, and with house prices lower than they have been in the past, this may be the right time to buy.

There are lots of options and pitfalls, though, so make sure you get professional advice before considering buying property to let.

Steve Osborne
The Mortgage Company
Ashford



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Price rise allays fears of double-dip market

■ BY NICK AMES

HOUSE prices will rise by an average of £9,000 this year, despite a slower-than-usual start to 2010, economists have predicted.

Interest rates will remain low, encouraging buyers to return to the market, and this will have the effect of boosting prices by 5.3 per cent this year, according to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

It means the value of the average home in the UK would rise from £169,500, as calculated by Britain's biggest lender Halifax, to £178,500 by the end of this year.

The predictions have gone on to look at how things will turn out over the coming years as well. There will be a lower increase of 3.4 per cent in 2011, followed by a strong rise of nine per cent in 2012, CEBR predicted.

It comes after a fall in prices of more than 16 per cent in 2008 amid the financial meltdown which severely hit the market and led to gloomy predictions about the future.

David Hollingworth, of mortgage brokers London and Country, said: "It does not suggest that the market is back to normal, as transactions remain low, but it is a step in the right direction and it puts paid to suggestions of a double dip in the housing market."

The Bank of England is widely predicted to increase interest rates to 2.25 per cent by the end of 2011, but CEBR forecasts it will remain



at 0.5 per cent until then. The group added, however, that the bank rate could be temporarily higher if there was a hung parliament. But the impact of this was likely to be temporary, it said, and within 18 months rates would be back where they would have

been if a single party had won the election.

It suggested average mortgage rates will fall from current levels of around four per cent to three per cent by the beginning of 2011 as markets begin to realize that interest rates will stay lower for longer than expected.

Fixed-rate loans reach new low

FIXED-RATE mortgages have fallen to their lowest level since April 2007, while average two-year fixed-rate offers have fallen 3.36 per cent since April 2008, according to a new report.

Hannah-Mercedes Skenfield, the mortgages channel manager for the website moneysupermarket.com, revealed the results of the company's study and said that it was promising that fixed-rate mortgage rates were "moving in the right direction" and were returning to their lowest level since the height of the recession.

She continued: "With inflation rising, the potential for the Bank of England to increase the base rate in the near future increases, so borrowers who are looking to fix their mortgage repayment should consider whether now is the perfect time to switch."

However, Ms Skenfield added that borrowers need to consider any fees associated with the mortgage switch before they make any decisions to grab the lowest rate available, as the deal may not represent the best value in the long run.

Predictions

According to John Charcol research released this week, last month's home loan market was dominated by variable rates, which accounted for 84 per cent of mortgages.

The news comes alongside predictions for the future of the housing market over the next few months.

A spokeswoman for the Council of Mortgage Lenders made her assertions that there will be little movement following release of the Hometrack house price index, which explained

that house prices increased by 0.2 per cent in April.

Furthermore, the supply of homes for sale – coming in at 3.7 per cent of the market as a whole – is outstripping demand comfortably, which remains at a comparatively low 1 per cent.

The representative further explained that there would be a major slowing-down in the market and asserted that the organisation was not expecting too much movement on prices or transactions.

She continued: "There'll be a few ups and downs as we go along which is to be expected but at the moment there are very, very low levels of transactions."

"Not very many people out there are actually buying houses or mortgaging houses at the moment."

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FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03206

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- Sea views and no chain



CAPEL LE FERNE £450,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03237

- Stunning detached house
- 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- Garage and parking



FOLKESTONE £425,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03248

- 5 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms
- Sauna, hot tub and balcony
- Sea views and no chain



FOLKESTONE £359,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03092

- 8 bedroom semi detached
- 5 bathrooms
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £350,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03126

- 3 bedroom detached
- Approx 1.0 acre of land
- No chain/Quick sale required due to moving abroad



FOLKESTONE £299,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03244

- 5 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms
- Stunning sea views
- No chain



HAWKINGE £284,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03187

- 4 bedroom detached
- 3 bathrooms
- Off road parking & garage



RIVER £279,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03231

- 3 bed detached house
- Tandem garage
- Views of Kearsney Abbey grounds



FOLKESTONE £274,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03239

- 5 bedroom semi
- Garage and driveway
- Large rear garden



CHERITON £224,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03256

- 5 bed end terrace
- OSP/conservatory
- 2 bathrooms



CHERITON OIEO £204,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03103

- Modern 4 bedroom family home
- Bathroom & Shower room
- Potential 5th bed parking



WEST END £199,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03249

- 2 bed apartment
- Private garden/parking
- No onward chain



CHERITON £197,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03258

- 4 bedroom terrace
- No onward chain
- Fully refurbished/OSP



SANDGATE £195,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03018

- 2 bedroom end of terrace house
- Sea view and balcony
- No chain



WHITFIELD OIEO £190,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03093

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Superb decorative order
- Garage and driveway



CHERITON £189,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03010

- 3 bed detached
- Garage and driveway
- Private rear garden



CHERITON £189,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03211

- Superb 3 bedroom terrace
- Garage and parking
- No chain



WEST END £189,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03229

- 2 bedroom apartment
- Sea views/balcony
- Single garage



WEST END £166,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03196

- 3 bedroom apartment
- Sea views
- No onward chain



FOLKESTONE £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03218

- 2 bed semi detached bungalow
- East Cliff location
- Sea and harbour glimpses



FOLKESTONE £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03191

- 3 bed semi-detached
- In need of modernisation
- No onward chain



CHERITON £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03190

- 3 bedroom mid terrace
- Good size rear garden
- No chain



GOLDEN VALLEY £174,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03157

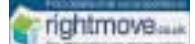
- 3 bed end of terrace
- Off road parking and garage
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £159,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03255

- Three bed end of terrace
- Private rear garden
- Single garage/GCH and DG



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- 3 bedroom terraced
- Large garden
- No chain

**FOLKESTONE** £149,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03195

- 3 bedroom terrace
- Views over park
- Good size garden

**CHERITON** £149,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03222

- 3 bedroom end terrace
- Enclosed rear garden
- No onward chain

**WEST END** £149,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03210

- 2 bed apartment
- Period features & fire places
- 2 reception rooms

**METROPOLE** £145,000**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03202

- 2 bedroom apartment
- Sea views
- No onward chain

**CHERITON** £145,000**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03254

- 3 bedroom terraced
- Superb decorative order
- No chain

**DOVER** £144,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03069

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- GFCH & DG
- Private rear garden

**FOLKESTONE** £144,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03243

- Four bed terraced house
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- DG, GCH and garden

**CHERITON** £144,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03102

- Three bed terraced house
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**CHERITON** £132,500**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03215

- 3 bedroom terrace
- In need of TLC
- No onward chain

**FOLKESTONE** £129,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03240

- 5 bedroom terrace
- Renovation project
- No onward chain

**FOLKESTONE** £126,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03197

- 2 bedroom end terrace
- Good sized rear garden
- Modern fitted bathroom

**FOLKESTONE** £125,000**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03180

- 3 bed terraced house
- GFCH/DG
- Good investment/ FTB

**DOVER** £124,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03199

- 2 double bedrooms
- Approx 70FT garden
- No onward chain

**SANDGATE** £109,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP02937

- One bed apartment
- Walking distance to beach
- Off road parking

**FOLKESTONE** £109,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03216

- 1 bed apartment
- Good location
- Large living area

**DOVER** £104,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03241

- 2 bedroom terrace
- Fully refurbished
- No onward chain

**FOLKESTONE** £99,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03245

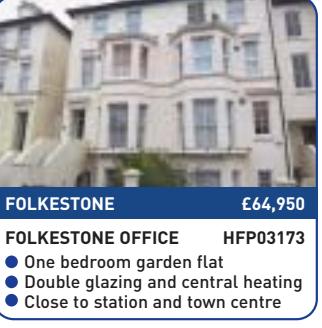
- 1 bedroom flat
- Communal garden
- Great FTB or investment

**FOLKESTONE** £82,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03071

- One bedroom first floor flat
- Large lounge
- Built-in wardrobes

**DOVER** £79,995**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03192

- 2 bed maisonette
- Private small front garden
- In need of refurbishment

**FOLKESTONE** £64,950**FOLKESTONE OFFICE** HFP03173

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£169,950

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DOVER



£100,000

Beautifully presented one bedroom ground floor apartment in sought after location. Part of large period house.

Dover 01304 201806

Central heating and double glazed throughout.

DOVER



£145,000

This two bedroom semi detached house is situated in a sought after area. The property is set on a elevated location with fantastic views across



most of Dover. It comprises a lounge, dining room, kitchen and downstairs wc with storage cupboard to the ground floor and a family bathroom.

PUBLIC NOTICE Dover 01304 201806



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£320,000

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FOLKESTONE



Folkestone 01303 259211

£200,000

FIXED PRICE £200,000

Three bedroom semi detached property arranged over three floors with the lounge/diner, kitchen and shower room to the lower ground and three

bedrooms and bathroom to the second. Further benefits include garage, tiered garden and no chain.

LYMINGE



Folkestone 01303 259211

£235,000

Three bedroom family home. Entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, lounge, conservatory and bathroom. Outside,

the property is approached across a private courtyard with allocated parking, garage and to the rear is a courtyard garden.

FOLKESTONE Folkestone 01303 259211



FOLKESTONE Folkestone 01303 259211

£167,500

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Whilst it is beneficial for candidates to be working towards or to hold a recognised qualification in Information Advice and Guidance, teaching certificate, NVQ Assessor Award (A1) and Internal Verifier, Award (V1), Justonestep will provide training and support for the right candidate to achieve these qualifications if necessary.

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

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Ref: P0333

Salary: £40,512 per annum

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Closing date: Wednesday 2 June 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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To support our continued growth and development we are seeking to recruit the following positions:

TEAM MANAGER (New Post)

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ADMINISTRATOR (New Post)

£13,011

To support the social work team we are seeking an additional administrator. You will be responsible for the company database and provide back up support to reception.

Experienced user of MS Office applications or similar required.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

To the right candidates we can offer a range of benefits including excellent working conditions, private health care insurance, company pension scheme and access to regular supervision and professional development.

Closing date for both applications is Monday 7th June 2010

Interviews will take place w/c 14th June 2010

Heath Farm is an Equal Opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

If you have the ability and qualities required and wish to join a successful and growing organisation where your skills will be appreciated, email wcameron@heathfarm.org for an application pack Tel: 01233 712030

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THE SPENCER WING

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Dual Trained Nurse (Margate) - 20 hrs per week

(Paediatric/Adult trained)

Pre-Assessment Nurse - 22.5 hrs (Margate)

Closing date for applications – 16 June 2010

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Vicky Smith or Mary Guarneri - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207 for the Dual Trained Nurse Position or Deborah Wilson-Webb (Pre-Assessment Sister) on 01843 234555 Ext: 63917

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

East Kent Medical Services Ltd

The Spencer Wing, QEJM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

Human Resources Advisor Full or Part-time Opportunity

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MidKent College has existed for over 80 years and we pride ourselves on our responsiveness to employers and ability to meet the needs of our students. In July 2009 we successfully opened our new £86m campus for the Medway towns and are due to commence modernisation work at our Maidstone campus.

As part of our continued development we are looking to recruit a Human Resources Advisor who will help deliver our operational commitment, primarily at our Maidstone campus.

You will provide comprehensive Human Resources (HR) advice and guidance to the Campus Senior Leadership Team, managers and staff and actively participate in development of employment policies. In addition, you will lead on staff consultation processes, people planning, change management processes, recruitment and absence management in your designated departments. As an HR generalist you will engage with our stakeholders to enhance and support the delivery of outstanding learning opportunities at the College.

This role will involve working closely with the Head of HR and is a rare and exciting opportunity to help develop a fit for purpose HR support service.

The ideal candidate for this role will be CIPD qualified and have experience of working in unionised environments. The person will have a track record delivering professional HR advice and support and be able to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and experience to improve the performance of the HR function.

For an informal discussion please contact Ian Johnston, Head of Human Resources on 01634 383601.
Please specify on your application whether you are interested in a full or part-time position.

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CLOSING DATE: 11 JUNE 2010 INTERVIEW DATE: 17 JUNE 2010

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail jobapplications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.



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THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Physiotherapy Administrator

to cover Margate and Ashford

The hours will initially be afternoons and evenings
and will involve shift work.

Closing date for applications – 16 June 2010

We are looking for a flexible, friendly outgoing computer literate person with marketing experience to join a dynamic, busy, forward thinking physiotherapy team. The job will involve record keeping, invoicing, maintaining filing systems, making appointments and clinic monitoring as well as dealing with the public and duties as specified by the Physiotherapy Manager

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Jenny Avery-Stevens, Physiotherapy Manager on 01843 235019

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

East Kent Medical Services Ltd

The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencervwing.com

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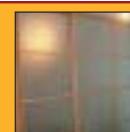
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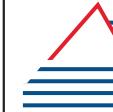
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CRICKET

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent League Division One

Harvel 1st XI v Folkestone 1st XI

FOLKESTONE were left frustrated as Harvel's tail enders played brilliantly to deny the visitors what had looked a certain victory.

Chasing 297 for the win, Harvel were 68 for 7 at one stage but dug deep to keep Folkestone's bowlers out, helped by a magnificent unbeaten ninth wicket partnership of 74.

Folkestone skipper Andy Bray won the toss and then watched his batsmen fill their boots in helpful conditions. The openers put on 77 before David Miles was bowled for 40, but his partner, Stuart Graham, went on to complete an excellent century before he was dismissed for 113.

Himanshu Waingarkar (54) and Joshua Bryen (60) also made the most of their opportunity as Folkestone rattled up 296 for 4 from their 50 overs.

The target looked intimidating for Harvel, without a win so far this season, and their chances narrowed further as they made a bad start to their reply.

Michael James took two wickets to help reduce the hosts to 18 for 3 and it did not get any better as the wickets continued to tumble. Waingarkar ripped through the middle order and when he bowled Jesse Seven (30), Harvel looked on the brink of defeat on 68 for 7.

From nowhere the home side mustered some resistance and Phillip Darby put on 78 with Alex Walker before the former became Waingarkar's sixth victim. There was still plenty of time for Folkestone to take the two wickets they needed for victory, but Walker (60 not out) and Desmond Bailey (38 not out) incredibly remained at the crease until the end.

Folkestone host neighbours Hythe, who prop up the division, this Saturday.

Harvel dig in to deny Folkestone a victory



DENIED: Folkestone's bowlers were kept out by some stubborn batting from Harvel's tail

SCORE CARD

Folkestone 1st XI

	Runs
David Miles b Ramsey	40
Stuart Graham b Bailey	113
Himanshu Waingarkar b Whatman	54
Joshua Bryen ct Whatman b Bailey	60
Daniel Clark not out	18
Nick Graham not out	1
Michael James did not bat	
Jamie Dawes did not bat	
Dan Matcham did not bat	
Andy Bray did not bat	
Peter Turnbull did not bat	
Extras (Blb 2w)	10
Total (4 wickets, 50 overs)	296

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Desmond Bailey	15	1	102	2
Alister Ramsey	15	2	72	1
Gary Whatman	15	2	83	1
Simon Jones	5	0	31	0

Harvel 1st XI

	Runs
David Walker b James	9
Matt Britz b Waingarkar	3
Jesse Seven b Waingarkar	30
Gary Whatman ct Graham b James	5
Daniel Walker ct Graham b Waingarkar	4
Alister Ramsey ct Dawes b Waingarkar	0
Simon Bowden lbw b Waingarkar	5
Philip Darby ct Waingarkar b Waingarkar	36
Alex Walker not out	60
Desmond Bailey not out	38
Simon Jones did not bat	
Extras (5b 4lb 10w 1lb)	30
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	220

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Michael James	12	0	61	2
Himanshu Waingarkar	15	6	33	6
Andy Bray	12	1	68	0
Dan Matcham	4	0	13	0
Peter Turnbull	3	0	12	0
Daniel Clark	4	0	12	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Whitstable 1st XI

A CENTURY from Sam Denly helped Whitstable beat Sandwich Town by three wickets to move top of Division One.

The hosts lost the toss but had few problems after being put into bat. Craig Snell (90) and Stuart Smith (75) put on 106 for the second wicket and a half-century from Vishaul Singh pushed them close to 300.

Whitstable lost their openers relatively cheaply, but Denly (109) and David Draper (63) hauled them back into the game. James Mills (34) and Elliot Lewis (23) were unbeaten as the visitors maintained their 100 per cent start to the season.

Sandwich Town 1st XI

	Runs
Craig Snell lbw b Trott	90
David Scoggins lbw b Lewis	22
Stuart Smith ct Denly b Trott	75
Vishaul Singh ct Richardson b Trott	53
Gary Burgess run out	3
Tom Chapman not out	35
Gavin Lawrence b Gould	0
Craig Spanton not out	1
Liam Evans did not bat	
Matthew van Poppel did not bat	
Jack Bradley did not bat	
Extras (4lb 12w 3nb)	19
Total (6 wickets, 50 overs)	298

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Ben Trott	15	2	80	3
James Mills	6	1	42	0
Elliot Lewis	4	0	26	1
Duncan Hardy	15	1	79	0
Josh Gould	7	0	45	1
James Loader	3	0	22	0

Whitstable 1st XI

	Runs
Max Campbell ct Singh b Spanton	14
Tom Richardson ct Singh b Spanton	12
Sam Denly ct Lawrence b van Poppel	109
David Draper b Chapman	63
James Leader ct Lawrence b Chapman	20
Jake Guinan run out	0
Ben Trott ct Singh b Spanton	15
James Mills not out	34
Elliot Lewis not out	23
Josh Gould did not bat	
Duncan Hardy did not bat	
Extras (1b 2lb 4w 5nb)	12
Total (7 wickets, 49.1 overs)	302

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Liam Evans	10	0	61	0
Craig Spanton	14.1	0	91	3
Jack Bradley	3	0	23	0
Matthew van Poppel	15	3	81	1
Tom Chapman	7	0	43	2

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Sibton Park 1st XI v Blackheath 1st XI

SIBTON Park lost their first game of the season as they were edged out by one wicket in an exciting finish with Blackheath.

Park made a steady start after winning the toss, but skipper Steve Hobbs' departure led to a slump as the rest of the side found runs hard to come by, finishing on 155 for 9.

Blackheath were reduced to 2 for 3, but a half-century from Jack Ford helped restore the balance. Steven Rowe and Andy Allon bowled well to give Sibton Park a chance, but the visitors scraped home in the 48th over.

Sibton Park

	Runs
George Leadbetter ct Shepherd b Ahmed	35
Andy Allon ct Fern b Ahmed	15
Tim Bishop ct Ford b Ahmed	23
Ben Allon ct Brathwaite b Hands	41
Steve Hobbs lbw b Hands	16
Martin Wren lbw b Hands	1
Steve Hickmott ct Speller b Hands	3
Steven Rowe not out	5
Sam Newman st Shepherd b Hands	1
Gareth Meers b Sharif	0
Tim Smith not out	4
Extras (1lb 2lb 8w)	11
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	155

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Ruel Brathwaite	7	0	29	0
Jahid Ahmed	15	4	27	3
Paul Valkovics	9	0	40	0
James Hands	15	2	38	5
Zobie Sharif	4	0	18	1

Blackheath

	Runs
Zobie Sharif ct Newman b Rowe	0
Stuart Fern ct Hobbs b Smith	0
Sam Parry lbw b Rowe	2
Jack Ford ct Wren b Bishop	51
Charlie-Sid Speller run out	18
Chris Willetts ct A llon b Rowe	40
Jahid Ahmed b Bishop	2
Paul Valkovics ct Hickmott b A llon	15
Matt Shepherd lbw b A llon	3
Ruel Brathwaite not out	6
James Hands not out	4
Extras (5b 3lb 4w 3nb)	15
Total (9 wickets, 47.2 overs)	156

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Steven Rowe	11.2	2	32	3
Tim Smith	12	5	20	1
Gareth Meers	6	2	22	0
Sam Newman	3	0	19	0
Andy Allon	10	3	21	2
Tim Bishop	5	1	34	2

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 2ND XI

Bromley Common 2nd XI v Hythe 2nd XI

A CENTURY from Bob Phillips helped Hythe 2nds pull off a big run chase to beat Bromley Common 2nds by three wickets.

Batting first, Bromley Common's innings was built around Anthony Lewis' 106, which helped them post a competitive 269 for 7. Stefan Pichowski was the pick of Hythe's attack, taking 5 for 62.

Hythe's reply began well and Phil Hoyland (42) put on 108 with Phillips (118) for the first wicket. Phillips' knock came from just 128 balls, while a rapid 26 from Benjamin Tosland saw Hythe home off the final ball.

Bromley Common 2nd XI

	Runs
Michael Armenakis ct Homewood b Large	7
Brett Walker b Connolly	40
Anthony Lewis ct Hemphrey b Pichowski	106
Greg Robey ct Connolly b Pichowski	12
Nicholas White ct Connolly b Pichowski	63
Matthew Hammond Smith lbw b Pichowski	3
Oliver Wade ct Connolly b Pichowski	13
Hayden Burke not out	0
David Luxford did not bat	
Andrew Cotton did not bat	
Simon Moore ct Nokes b Azhar	2
Dan Ford ct Jones b Azhar	2
Barry Green not out	19
Martin Burton b Rodrigo	0
Eoin McGrath b Rodrigo	6
Peter Huntley c&b Nokes	0
Extras (3b 7lb 14w 1nb)	25
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	269

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Matt Eccles	7	0	32	0
Henry Large	13	0	72	1
Josh Connolly	15	1	69	1
Tom Homewood	4	0	24	0

Hythe 2nd XI

	Runs

Whites set to make an 'exciting' appointment

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

DOVER Athletic will unveil an "exciting and highly-experienced manager" on Friday as the successor to Andy Hessenthaler.

The Whites have been searching for a swift replacement for Hessenthaler, who left the club by mutual consent last week to take up a managerial position at Gillingham. His replacement is due to be announced at a press conference at Crabble on Friday morning.

Since Hessenthaler's departure, the club has been inundated with CV's from applicants hoping to become the new Dover manager. With only six players on contract for next season, chairman Jim Parmenter is keen to appoint a new manager swiftly to ensure the nucleus of the side remain together after finishing second last season.

Former Gillingham boss Mark Stimson, Ebbsfleet United manager Liam Daish, ex-Rushden & Diamonds boss Garry Hill and current Whites assistant boss Darren Hare have all been linked to the post.

Parmenter told the club website: "We've had a good mixture of applicants. The club has received loads of CVs. Some of the names that have contacted us will amaze you. Some of the managers have Conference or League experi-



IN THE FRAME: Liam Daish (left) and Darren Hare (right) are just two of a number of names linked with the Dover job

ence, there are some ex-League players and a few big names too. It's vital we make the right decision – but we're already working on it."

Despite winning back-to-back promotions in the Ryman League and finishing second in Blue Square South last season during Hessenthaler's three-year reign, Parmenter believes it's time for the club to move on.

He told this newspaper: "It's obviously a loss for the club but it's the end of an era, not the end of the world. We move on into a new era, it's the way of football. I'm very sorry to see Andy go but the club is in good shape.

"We're financially sound, there's a good playing budget, an A-grade ground and a great fan

base. With due respect to Hess, the five-year plan to get to the Conference is a plan for the club and not just Andy. He was a very important part of that, but the club moves on."

Before Hessenthaler departed Crabble he offered the majority of his out-of-contract squad new deals.

Contract talks with the squad stalled during the managerial change and the chairman believes talking to the majority of last season's squad will be the new man's first task.

He said: "A lot of the players Andy offered deals to are under 24 so they won't move on anywhere unless we agree compensation with the club."



Picture: IGOR KUKO

No change at Cheriton, says boss

FOOTBALL

NEIL Cugley is expecting a quiet summer at Folkestone Invicta after meeting chairman Lynn Woods last week to discuss the playing budget for next season.

The Seasiders are committed to a Company Voluntary Arrangement to clear their debts, meaning there will not be much change in the playing budget despite the team winning promotion to the Ryman Premier Division this season.

Several of the squad have already committed themselves for next season, while talks are continuing with other players.

Cugley is looking for reinforcements, but admitted it could be difficult to attract players with limited resources.

RETURN?: Jimmy Dryden could be fit for Invicta's pre-season if ankle problem heals

He said: "We will be basically going with what we had last year. We'd like to bring in a midfielder and a striker, but we'll have to wait and see. Although people are saying there's no money around, players are still being offered good deals. We're not in a rush."

The club are optimistic captain Jimmy Dryden will be fit for pre-season. The striker missed most of last season with an ankle injury and is seeing a specialist next week to try and rectify the problem.

Elsewhere, Folkestone have announced their first set of pre-season friendlies. Ryman Premier champions Dartford visit Cheriton Road on July 24 and there is also a home game against rivals Ashford Town three days later. Ramsgate visit on August 10, while there are short trips to Lordswood, Leatherhead, Whitstable and Chatham before the season kicks off on August 21.

MOTORSPORT



BATTLE: Europe's elite drivers head to Lydden Hill

Huge crowd to flock to Lydden Hill circuit

LYDDEN Hill race circuit will welcome a crowd in excess of 10,000 this weekend for the third round of the European Rallycross Championship.

The circuit, near Dover, hosted the championship last year and witnessed a record 10,000 crowd flock to the venue known as the 'home of rallycross'.

The world's most talented rallycross drivers will do battle on the one-mile tarmac and gravel course to earn vital points in the ten round championship.

This year American stunt driver Tanner Foust will be competing in the top supercar category alongside Sittingbourne's Liam Doran, who hopes to record his maiden win in the series. Sweden's Michael Jernberg leads the championship after the first two rounds of the season, while Doran sits in third spot. Last year the race at Lydden Hill was won by 14-time European champion Kenneth Hansen.

Qualifying and heats begin this Sunday with the finals on Bank Holiday Monday.

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Kent circuit, Lydden Hill, prepares for European Rallycross Championship

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